

VETERANS SERVICE COMMITTEE (VSC)
TOWN OF MADISON
November 6, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Sharon Schilling, Paulette Lowry, Cheryl Harris

Not in Attendance (excused): Gary Palmer, Ken Sweet(alternate) Gary Bent(alternate).

Others Present: Carol Dandeneau, Videographer

Where and When Posted: Notice was posted in the Town Office upper and lower levels and in Madison and Silver Lake Post Offices. Postings were done on March 28, 2023

Meeting Called to Order: 4:32PM by Schilling at Town Hall. Harris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call/Elevation of Alternates: Members present constituted a quorum.

Approval of Draft Minutes: Minutes of the October 16, 2023 meeting were approved on a motion by Lowry, 2nd by Harris. Approved unanimously.

Public Comments: Lowry spoke as a member of the public regarding the Veterans Monument committee. The actual name is the Veterans Advisory Committee. This provided some confusion recently regarding a potential new member and which committee they were looking to join, Veterans Services or Veterans Monument? Lowry is going to discuss with Mike Brooks the possibility of adding the word monument to the Veterans Advisory Committee so the public and the committee members are clear regarding which committee does what. The name proposed would be Veterans Monument Advisory Committee. There was also discussion about the possibility of combining the two committees and Lowry will discuss with Mike Brooks as well.

New Business: - None

Old Business: Veterans Property Tax Credit: Harris and Lowry were at a meeting last Friday with State Representative Mark McConkey. They discussed with him an update to RSA 72-28a regarding the Veterans Tax credit. McConkey advice was to draft the new language. If unsure of exact legal language, just draft in plain language and submit to him to give to the folks in the State House who can word it properly. He will sponsor it. Also advised we get other groups to support (ie VFW, American Legion etc) and when it comes up for discussion and vote, go to the State House and support it. McConkey recommends it be in his hands (or Rep. Browns) before the end of the calendar year. We discussed working on the wording at the 20 November meeting. In the mean time Schilling will send the link to the existing RSA to all the committee members.

Food Pantry –Lowry connected with Kim Force from the Food Pantry, they have 70 food baskets for Madison residents. If we know of any Vets specifically in need, get them to contact the Food Pantry. The Knights of Columbus and the Lions Club members will assist with delivery.

Veterans Day: Palmer not in attendance

Quilts of Valor: Ceremony was a big hit. Originally it was only scheduled to be family and close friends of the recipients because the venue could only hold approximately 30 people. However, word got out and there was a ton of interest in attending. Schilling made a call to the Elementary School and their gym was available, so the ceremony was moved there. There was an announcement on Facebook letting the town people know they were invited to attend. The Quilts of Valor reps were very pleased and expressed desire to do at least one ceremony per year. Will continue to coordinate with them. Perhaps next year near Veterans Day.

Veterans Monument: Lowry received an estimate for the update of the Monument and turned it in to the Town Administrator. Lowry leaving town soon for the winter so she gave a copy of the estimate and the names to Schilling and asked that Schilling follow up and advocate at the Selectmens meeting next week. Once the town pays the estimate to Arthurs Memorials, they will order the bronze plaque and the names will be added in the spring when the granite is not freezing.

Town Website: Sweet not in attendance, but let Schilling know that he had reached out to the Town Administrator and would follow up with her again before the next meeting.

Administration: Discussed meetings for next year. So we stick with the same day, time and two times a month schedule. Schilling to send an email asking for input from absent members. Will discuss at December 4th meeting to establish schedule for calendar year 2024.

Adjournment and Next Meeting: There being no further business, Harris motioned and Lowry seconded the motion to adjourn. The committee adjourned at 5:22 PM with the next meeting being November 20th, 2023 at 4:30 PM.