

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes,
Monday, October 21, 2024, 7:00 PM

Members Present:

Kristin Reilly
Wendell Rich
Dave Reese
Erik Saracino
Thomas Yaegal

Members Not Present:

John Coulbourn

Others Present:

Paula Gasper – Township Liaison-
Lisa Russo - Administration Liaison-Absent
Pete Palestina
Bernadette Heenan
Michael Clark
Bill Klenke

MEETING CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Sept 23, 2024 - Unanimous consent.

TOWNSHIP LIAISON NOTES: Paula Gasper provided an update on the possible water contamination reported in Churchville. She also provided attendees a list of water testing companies.

OLD BUSINESS

- Fundraiser Update
 - Raised approximately \$2600.00.
 - Low turnout at the Giuseppe’s Pizza fundraiser contributed by the current email system.
 - Giuseppe’s Pizza donated \$500.00 (fundraiser tab).
 - Uninvest Bank donated \$200.00.
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- Potential collaboration with students and officials at the Richboro Star Center to solicit ideas for a dedication ceremony in honor of Gold Star recipient MSgt Elwell.
- Erik Saracino is drafting a white paper/article highlighting the steps needed for veterans applying for VA healthcare and disability benefits.
- Peter Palestina is working with PA Representative Kristin Marcell on revising the current requirements for veterans seeking to apply for the veteran real estate tax discount.

NEW BUSINESS

- Officer Zach Wyant, Northampton Police Department, and Bernadette Hennan assisted a local Veteran in the area.
- Veterans Day, to be held on Nov 9th @ 11:00 am at the Northampton Civic Center
 - M/C: Erik Saracino
 - Guest Speaker: Martin Kleiner, Liberty War Birds Association (LWBA) will provide a fully restored and flyable U.S. Army UH-1H (Huey) helicopter which will provide support for our Veteran Day activities.
 - Chaplain: Pastor Doug Dwyer Addisville Reformed Church
 - Singer: Lisa Garner
 - Bugler: TBD
 - Color Guard: Patriot Det. 1230, Marine Corps League
 - Discussion:
 - Announcement of 15 veteran brick recipients.
 - Tom Yaegel invited U.S. Army (Ret) Captain David A. Christian to the township Veterans Day event. Yaegel also secured the use of 4 military vehicles that will be used to transport special guests from the LWBA to the ceremony.
 - Matthew Allen, Veterans Affairs Director, will provide Bernadette Heenan with Challenge Coins for distribution at the Veterans Day event.
- Wreath Laying, Union Cemetery, Saturday, Dec 7th @ 11:00 am
 - M/C: Kristin Reilly
 - Guest Speaker: Officer Zach Wyant
 - Chaplain: No person chosen at this time.
 - Singer: Lisa Garner
 - Bugler: Possible CR South Band or Bugles Across America
 - Bagpiper: TBD
 - Color Guard/Firing Squad: Patriot Det. 1230, Marine Corps League
 - Discussion:
 - Wreaths have been ordered from Ed London Wreath Company at a price of \$9.65 each including wreath, red bow and delivery. Total cost is \$3618.75 for 375 Wreaths
 - Charlie Wyant “Grumpy” recognition of service (Officer Zach Wyant)
 - Girl Scouts plan to participate by reciting the pledge of allegiance.
 - Coyles Music – inquire with local businesses to identify a bagpiper for the ceremony.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:20 pm

Respectively Submitted

Erik Saracino, Secretary

Next Meeting: Monday, November 18, 2024