

Veterans Affair Committee
REGULAR MEETING
March 18, 2024

PRESENT: W. Willinsky, T. Dickerson, J. Sterry, R. Spooner, W. Petras,

ABSENT: R. Cote, C. Armstrong, R. Hunter (A), Vacant (A) (A) = Alternate

OTHERS PRESENT: D. Rutter, R Eldridge., R. Washington

1. CHAIRMAN CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman W. Willinsky called the REGULAR meeting to order at 6:42 PM at the American Legion Hall, located at 12 Freestone Avenue, Portland, Connecticut.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF OUR COUNTRY

3. ACCEPT AGENDA

A motion was made by T. Dickerson, seconded by J. Sterry to accept the agenda as written. **All were in favor. Motion Passed.**

4. ACCEPT MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by J. Sterry, seconded by T. Dickerson to dispense with reading the prior meeting minutes out loud. **All were in favor. Motion passed.**

A motion was made by T. Dickerson, seconded by J. Sterry to accept the minutes of the February 26, 2023 meeting as written. **All were in favor. Motion passed.**

5. SECRETARY'S REPORT (T. Dickerson)

Nothing to pass.

W. Willinsky passed that D. Rutter's name was approved by the nominating committee for the Republican Town Committee to fill the vacant VAC position. His name will be submitted to the Board of Selectman for consideration.

6. VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT (J. Sterry)

J. Sterry has one person who was asking for information on applying for VA medical benefits.

7. VETERANS BENEFITS & INFORMATION OFFICER'S REPORT (S. Petras)

S. Petras passed that the VA' PACT act has a program called Toxic Exposures Research Program (TERP).

(From the VA website: The TERP is a broad program that will investigate medical coverage for neurotoxin exposure, Gulf War Illness and its treatment, airborne hazards and burn pits, as well as military service-related toxic exposures in general, including prophylactic medications, pesticides, organophosphates, toxic industrial chemicals, materials, metals, and minerals. <https://news.va.gov/116593/accessing-toxic-exposure-health-care-benefits/>)

8. COMMITTEE ADVISOR'S REPORT (To remain vacant unless needed in the future.)

9. OLD BUSINESS

W. Willinsky provided a reminder to the VAC members to make sure they complete the annual ethics training and verification form.

10. NEW BUSINESS

None.

11. GENERAL DISCUSSION / PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

A motion was made by T. Dickerson, seconded by S. Petras to adjourn the meeting. **All were in favor, motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

The next Regular meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2024 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

//S//

Timothy E. Dickerson

Recording Secretary