

## Doylestown Township Veterans Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 23, 2024 @ 7 PM, Caucus Room

#### Attendees:

Chris Suessenguth, Chair

Joe Volk, Secretary

Megan McCuen, Member by Zoom

Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township Manager

Barbara Lyons, Esquire, Vice-Chair, Township Supervisors, Liaison

Matt Allen, Guest

Betty Carleo, Guest

Karen Smith, Guest

Kellen Lowrie - Eagle Scout Candidate, Guest

Absent: Nicholas Jasionis

Mr. Suessenguth, Chair, welcomed everyone present to the Doylestown Township Veterans Advisory Committee meeting.

Ms. Smith, led a discussion regarding Operation External Gratitude including the Central Bucks East High School Chapter Officers reporting on their service to Veterans. Central Bucks East hosted the first OEG chapter. These dedicated young folks update Veteran data bases, and pack care packages for local Veterans. Community support is needed for the OEG youth efforts for our great Veterans. Mr. Suessenguth had everyone present introduce themselves and share what they brought to the table regarding helping our Veterans. The Veterans Advisory Committee commented that they were impressed with the OEG shirts that the Central Bucks East High School chapter officers were wearing, and the work that the youth present were doing for our Veterans.

Mr. Lowrie, Eagle Scout candidate, discussed the flag retirement project which has been supported by township officials such as Ms. Lyons and Mr. Suessenguth.

Mr. Allen (Navy Service) and Ms. Carleo, Bucks County Veterans Affairs Office, discussed Montgomery and Bucks County each having a Veterans crisis help response team with a statewide proposal being developed for statewide support to be presented to Governor Shapiro. Ms. Carleo, has worked for twenty years with the Bucks County Veterans Affairs Office, has been dealing with the claim process for Veterans, averaging 325 calls per month.

On motion Ms. McCuen and seconded by Mr. Suessenguth, the January 25, 2024, minutes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Suessenguth led a discussion involving the Veterans Advisory Committee and its efforts to do something permanent to recognize local Veterans at the new community recreation center. The flagpole idea would cost \$3,000, the pole being 240 inches high, each inch being sold for \$25.00, to honor the memory of a Veteran or first responder. The funds raised would enable the township Veterans Advisory Committee to purchase the pole and dedicate it to the above-mentioned individuals. An aluminum engraver will be needed to list the names. This is a project that everyone attending would be emotionally involved with as we all have known a Veteran and first responder that has helped us, and we want to preserve their memory.

On motion of Ms. McCuen and seconded by Mr. Volk to adjourn the Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting at 8:20 PM with the motion being approved unanimously. The next meeting will be held Thursday, July 25, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Volk, Secretary