



Doylestown Township

Veteran's Advisory Committee

~ Minutes ~

425 Wells Road
Doylestown, PA 18901
<http://doylestownpa.org/>
Twitter: @DoylestownTwp
www.facebook.com/doylestowntpw
215-348-9915

Thursday, May 26, 2022

7:00 PM

Community Meeting Room

In attendance:

Chris Suessenguth; Katherin Wirth-Torrente; Bill Navarre; Ryan Manion, Board of Supervisors Liaison; Stacy Crandell, Assistant Township Manager; Ryan Kelly, Intern and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager.

WELCOME

Supervisor Manion welcomed all the volunteers to the committee and asked them to introduce themselves. Each of the members introduced themselves to each other giving a background on why they wanted to serve on the newly formed Veteran's Advisory Committee.

RESOLUTION #2336

The committee reviewed the resolution that the Board of Supervisors adopted and the purpose of the committee. It was noted that although three people have been appointed to date there are still two vacancies on the committee. It's the hope that the Township will find two additional residents who will want to serve in the near future.

SELECTION OF OFFICERS

On motion of Mr. Navarre, seconded by Ms. Wirth-Torrente Chris Suessenguth was nominated as chair. The motion carried unanimously.

On motion of Ms. Wirth-Torrente, she nominated herself as Vice Chair, motion seconded by Mr. Navarre. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion of Mr. Suessenguth, he nominated Mr. Navarre as secretary, seconded by Mr. Navarre. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman – Chris Suessenguth
Vice Chairman – Kathrin Wirth-Torrente
Secretary – Bill Navarre

DISCUSSION

Ms. Wirth-Torrente wanted to know how the Township and the Committee could go about getting information out to the community and wondered if social media posts were available.

Ms. Mason confirmed that yes, the Township can do social media posts.

Mr. Navarre asked Ms. Manion what she sees the roll of the Committee to be?

Ms. Manion indicated that her roll is to be a liaison and to encourage the Committee, but certainly bringing awareness and providing resources to the Veteran community would be ideal. Providing information, awareness, recognition of the Veteran's community could also be undertaken by the Committee.

As an example, the Committee could do a Veteran's Day Event. Look at the Township website to see what information is currently there and aid in updating that information from time to time.

Ms. Wirth-Torrente suggested that the Committee put banners on the light poles in the Township. There was some discussion about how banners are sponsored, installed, maintained and how the upkeep is done on them.

Ms. Manion indicated that several times those are done through sponsors or families.

Ms. Manion also indicated that she serves as the liaison to the Parks & Recreation Board and typically the Parks & Recreation Board sets objectives and long-term goals and that perhaps the Committee could also look into doing the same.

Mr. Suessenguth indicated that there is a lot of competition for Veteran's recognition and that not duplicating what others are doing should be a goal.

Ms. Manion indicated that if the Committee wanted to host something with the Board of Supervisors where we can draw out and recognize veterans in the community at a public meeting, is something that could be undertaken as well.

Mr. Suessenguth said that the Committee should try to do something at other Township events and incorporate military and vets. He suggested the concerts may be a way to do that.

Ms. Wirth-Torrente indicated that she is very passionate about the flag project for the veteran's community residing in Doylestown Township.

Ms. Manion suggested that the Committee could work with TAB and have a social media and slide prepared for the Government Access Channel as well.

Mr. Suessenguth talked about the Plumstead Veteran's Advisory Committee and how they host a breakfast, ceremony, with entertainment, perhaps we could partner or do something similar.

The Committee seemed to want to bring more awareness to the Committee and veterans and discussed manning a table at some of the upcoming summer concerts to find out what veterans in the community need or would like to see take place.

They discussed their meeting schedule and noted that they would not meet until the end of July and talked about meeting earlier.

It was the consensus of the Committee to meet on June 30th at 7 p.m. and further discuss some of the ideas that the Committee want to accomplish.

Mr. Navarre indicated that he'd like to see resources for parents incorporated into the Committee and ways they can be provided with information while their child serves or when their child is discharged.

The Committee talked about events and a question was asked about the 911 Heroes Run.

Ms. Manion indicated that the VAC could definitely have a table at the event and that she would waive the fee for them to participate.

Ms. Manion also suggested that the Committee not feel that they need to rush to do things, the Township is here to be supportive and to bring awareness to veterans in the community and the Committee should take their time and create sustainable information and events.

Mr. Suessenguth as Chairman thought that was a good approach. He also suggested doing some face to face with families at the Base. He also asked if the Committee could have t-shirts made up. It was indicated that funds would need to be allocated for t-shirts.

Ms. Wirth-Torrente talked about coming together and creating a data base and planning events that are important to Veterans in our community for both Blue Star & Gold Star Families and Veterans alike.

Ms. Wirth-Torrente also asked if there was a budget, Ms. Manion indicated that there was not but that if the Committee came up with a list of things to complete with a dollar amount Ms. Manion could go to the full Board of Supervisors and request appropriate funding at that time.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:59PM on motion of Mr. Suessenguth, seconded by Mr. Navarre. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager/Secretary