

Matthews Veterans Advisory Committee

January 2nd 2019

Minutes

Chairperson Tom Cannon called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at Matthews Town Hall with a quorum present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of reflection by Tom Cannon.

Committee Members present: Tom Cannon, Phil Mowry, Charleen Thompson, Jack Santaniello, Larry Stawicki, Fred Baylor, Michael Vento, Mike Kipp and Jim Thurman

Guests Welcomed Hazen Blodgett (ToM Liaison), Mark Tofano (Town Citizen), Jim Hollister (Town Citizen) Yoon Park (Town Citizen)

Minutes of November, 2018: Minutes were delayed approval until next meeting because Secretary was absent.

>**The plan to sponsor a veteran for the Honor flight was discussed. The committee is looking in to who to send. Mike Kipp is going to follow up with the Honor Flight people and see if anyone from the Town of Matthews has already gone thru the application process. If not, then we are going to check with the American Legion to see if they have a candidate. Deadline is coming soon for this application to make the next flight .**

> **Michael Vento has been working on a trifold recognizing veterans as valuable assets to the community. Michael is still working on some of this wording. Then we will print to send out to businesses and for our display case.**

>**Michael Vento spoke with Maureen with the town about our Rolling Calendar and it is now a link on the Towns website making it easier to keep updated.**

> Jack gave a treasurer report- We have \$3000.27 in our budget left. That does not include the \$550 that was raised as a donation from 1st Thursday fundraiser because we haven't received the check yet.

> Tom asked us to focus on what we needed to accomplish for the remainder of the year and to come back next meeting with some ideas for future recommendations.

>The war exhibit was discussed. Tom had felt we needed to ask another organization to do the actual exhibit. He sent a letter to Post 235- American Legion requesting they take this onboard. Phil Mowry is going to address with the Legion at their next board meeting and come back to us with their suggestions and answer. Jack feels like the challenge is to get the word out about the exhibit.

> Phil Mowry discussed the plans the American Legion has for Memorial Day weekend. The MVAC is in advisory role for whatever they need.

> Breakfast sponsored at Mt Moriah church that we have had for last couple years was discussed. The American Legion has decided to host a breakfast on the same day which will cause a conflict for getting people to attend. A great deal of discussion was held on that and opinions all discussed. It was decided that Phil in his position as Commander of American Legion Post 235 should meet with Fred Baylor and the committee with Mt Moriah and see what they can do to combine forces.

> The need for a new more solid display case for the lobby of the Town Hall/Library was discussed- Jack is to check with a contact he has to see if he could build something that will work better for the displays.

>Tom feels we need to have by the end of March recommendations for the Town for Veterans events- I.E.- Buffalo Soldier Day Recognition, 4th of July events, Continued Veteran of the year etc.

> Visitors were asked if they had any public comments- Mark Tofano introduced himself and offered to be of any assistance we would need and also

offered to make a donation or help pay for some ads in newspapers to get word out of some of our events.

Jim Hollister spoke about Post Traumatic Growth and brought some handouts on some research he has about PTG

> Jim Thurman brought information and a handout about a medal that had been proposed to honor American Veterans. The handout was an article he found in a coin magazine he received

This concluded the meeting and meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM

Submitted by:

Charleen Thompson