

**EASTERN ESSEX DISTRICT
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES
Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting of December 1, 2021**

The Eastern Essex Veteran's Board of Directors participated in a remote meeting utilizing Zoom in accordance with the governor's March 12, 2020 order suspending provisions of Open Meeting Laws and to promote public health and social distancing.

With a quorum present, Mr. Snow called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

Board Members present: Robert Snow, Chair, Rowley; Linda Alexson, Ipswich; Douglas Dawes, Georgetown; Michael Doyle, Newbury; Robert Janes, West Newbury

Staff present: Karen Tyler, Veterans Services Officer

Also present: Karen Bell, Administrative Assistant; Eileen Page, Recording Secretary; Karen Summit, Treasurer

Not present: Michael Flynn, Essex

Introducing Karen Bell

Karen Bell has been hired as the new Assistant to the Director.

Approval of Minutes

I. September 15, 2021

The approval of minutes was tabled until a meeting containing a quorum of members present for the September 15 meeting.

Guest Speaker: Rich Barbato on the Global War on Terror Bridge Dedication and Speaker Series

HIGH STREET BRIDGE DEDICATION

The request to name the Ipswich High Street bridge in honor of those who served in the Global War on Terror (GWOT) has been signed by the Senate Rules Committee. Mr. Barbato hopes to dedicate the bridge on Armed Forces Day in 2022. Mr. Barbato is regularly communicating with Senator Bruce Tarr's office.

SPEAKER SERIES

The speaker series will continue in January. Only fourteen (14) people attended the last event. Mr. Barbato and Ms. Tyler are working with the School Committee to ensure better attendance, and asked the Board members to advertise the event in their own communities.

Financials

Ms. Tyler reported that all expenditures are on target for this time of the year.

Ms. Alexson asked if an audit was figured into the Legal & Professional Services line item. Ms. Tyler responded that an audit of the District's finances is currently underway by Powers & Sullivan, and an update is expected soon.

Chair Report

The Rowley Veterans Council will meet on December 2, 2021.

On December 18, Rowley will hold a Wreaths Across America event. 550 wreaths will be laid in Rowley alone this year.

Discuss Towns Becoming Purple Heart Communities

Ms. Tyler reported that she is in the early stages of proposing a designation of Ipswich, Georgetown, Newbury, West Newbury, Rowley, and Essex as Purple Heart Communities. Within the next year, she hopes to approach each Town's Select Board with a proclamation.

Director's Report

Ms. Alexson recently received an award for her support and advocacy of veterans.

Ms. Tyler recently passed her Chapter 115 recertification test, which will allow the Towns to receive a full 75% reimbursement of Chapter 115 funds, as opposed to the 50% allowed without certification.

Ms. Tyler recently met with Congressman Seth Moulton and other area VSOs to discuss barriers and issues surrounding filing claims through the VA.

Ms. Tyler was recently recommended for appointment to the Governor's Advisory Committee on Women Veterans. The Committee is a State-mandated organization and will be made up of eleven (11) members.

Ms. Tyler and Mr. Barbato will appear at the December 6 Ipswich Select Board meeting to present on the dedication of the High Street bridge.

A veterans' benefits seminar will be held in Essex on December 15.

Ms. Bell will accompany Ms. Tyler for VSO training on December 14.

The next speaker series event is scheduled for January 15 at the Ipswich High School Performing Arts Center.

Mr. Doyle stated that he would like the District to consider holding a Brown Bag Event, in which veterans are able to bring their various medications to be assessed by a pharmacist to ensure there are no conflicting side effects.

➤ *Vote: Mr. Doyle moved to adjourn. Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

The Board of Directors adjourned at 7:26 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Eileen G. Page
02.01.2022*