

West Suburban Veterans District – October 15, 2019

Location: Wellesley Town Hall

Present: Chris Coleman, Meghan Jop, Louise Miller, and Lisa Yanakakis

Also present: Kate Fitzpatrick, Sarada Kalpee and Sally Rose

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 3:10 pm.

Business:

1. Citizen Speak

None

2. Minutes

The Board voted (4-0-0) to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2019 meeting.

3. Outreach Events

After a brief discussion the Board voted 4-0 to approve the FY21 Budget.

The Board is looking to hire a benefits eligible Head Administrator on a part-time, 25 hrs./wk basis, and then, in August 2020, moving to full-time for the year when Sarada is away. The Board approved the Deputy Director job description that Meghan had distributed. Meghan said she would talk with Wellesley's HR Department and within the next few weeks post the job on the Veteran's web page and in the four communities. She also encouraged Sarada to reach out to anyone who may be interested. Meghan, Louise, and Sarada will be interviewing prospective candidates.

Once a Deputy Director is hired s/he will shadow Sarada going around to the four towns. Once comfortable with the position the Deputy Director would be in one community and Sarada in another. That way the four offices would have a VSO more frequently than once a week.

Sarada briefly discussed her several upcoming events: on October 29th she will be meeting with Wellesley High School Students and Veterans, on November 1st she will be present in uniform at Wellesley Dental Group's annual candy drive, and her favorite activity on November 8th she will be at Tenacre Elementary School where she meets with different classes.

The remains of Lt Joseph Finneran, a WW2 Veteran, who was KIA, will be landing at Logan Airport on November 1st. On November 8th the Needham community will be honoring him with a ceremony including full military honors. Kate and Chris were both interested in promoting this event with school students. Sarada will provide them with information.

4. Director's Update

Sarada said that she plans to use some of the available District funds to go on daily excursions with Veterans. She plans to use Weston's COA van to visit Hanscom Air Force Base. On

October 24th, after the Wayland COA Breakfast, she plans to take veteran's shopping. Louise asked her how she got in touch with veterans. Sarada said through snail mail and word of mouth. On November 3rd she will be at Needham's poppy drive being held at Sudbury Farms. Sarada will be in Leominster, MA for the annual MVSOA conference from October 21st – 24th. She will be gone 3 weeks in June for military training, probably taking some vacation time in July and will be gone for a year starting in August, 2020.

5. Old/New Business

Chris has accepted a position as the Town Administrator in Westwood and will be leaving the District on November 25th. The Board wishes him well in his new position.

The next meeting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14th at the Wayland Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.