

**Doylestown Township
Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
June 30, 2022.**

Mr. Susessenguth opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

In attendance: Chris Suessenguth, Chairman; Katherin Wirth-Torrente, Vice Chairman; Bill Navarre, Secretary; Stephanie Mason, Township Manager; Stacy Crandell, Assistant Township Manager.

Minutes Approval May 26, 2022 - The May 26, 2022, VAC meeting was reviewed and on motion by Mr. Suessenguth seconded by Mr. Navarre the minutes were unanimously approved.

Guest – Jenn Pappas, representative from Biddle Air National Guard Base, Horsham, Family Readiness Group Mr. Suessenguth informed the committee that Ms. Pappas was unable to attend this evening's meeting but would reschedule her for a future meeting. He also mentioned that he spoke with Matt Wagner who is with Congressman Fitzpatrick's office about attending a future meeting.

Our Mission/Purpose (budget/goals/projects/fundraising donations) – Discussion was held for the possible addition of another member to serve on VAC and their name will be introduced and presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Mr. Suessenguth discussed the possible raffle held at future Township concerts that would be for tours of Washington D.C. with Congressman Fitzpatrick at a date to be determined. The purpose of the raffle would be to serve as a fund raiser for VAC and would be included as part of a budget to be established for VAC future projects and expenses. Discussion was held and it was decided that it is a topic for future consideration. Ms. Mason mentioned that typically there is no fund raising permitted at Township concerts as the proceeds raised at the concert go to Parks/Recreation and support of the performing arts series. Being able to fund raise at concerts perhaps in 2023 would need to be reviewed by the Park and Recreation Board.

RESOLUTION # 2336 Discussion:

The VAC purpose will be to include resources that could be made available on an established Township website that Veterans and their family members could access for information, i.e., links, sources of resource, possible County and/or State available information, programs which exist at the Bucks County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, as well as programs in place at the Bucks County YMCA. Mr. Navarre volunteered to make personal contact with representatives at both organizations and report back at the next meeting how VAC could work in conjunction with these organizations.

Mr. Suessenguth stated that his involvement with the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) both in Doylestown and that he would investigate how VAC could become affiliated with these resources. Possible resources would include:

1. Resource page link on website

2. Social Media sources to reach interested parties

Budget Goal Discussion:

The goal of VAC is to eventually be financially self-sufficient. Discussion included ways to obtain funds including:

1. Asking for local community and business donations.
2. Creating a LOGO.
3. Make future plans to establish a table to become visible in the community at the Travis Manion Foundation event.
4. Have a Table Banner.
5. Prepare a data collection sheet that would be at the table for Veteran and family sign up sheet for establishment of a data base.
6. Ms. Wirth-Torrente stated the Township should be involved with funding the VAC.
7. It was also suggested that a tri-fold information brochure be put together that would include links, pictures, resources that could be made available at the table when at functions.

Mr. Suessenguth suggested that VAC look for opportunities that we can reach out to other local organizations and be a benefit at their functions that are held in the community and that would also provide VAC with a source of visibility in the community. Upcoming events that VAC could participate in are the Travis Manion Foundation Run and the American Legion takes parties into the Neshaminy Manor annual Christmas Party

Mr. Suessenguth opened discussion that VAC start the process of asking the Township for funds prior to the November 2022 Board of Supervisors meeting. The amount discussed was stated of \$500.

Mr. Suessenguth suggested that VAC investigate the websites which are already established for both the Doylestown VFW and the American Legion.

Tri-Angle Park Field Day - Ms. Wirth-Torrente volunteered to head up the group that would be involved in the maintenance and cleaning of the Tri-Angle Park grounds in the near future. The date of the event was suggested for July 26th with a rain date of July 27th. Possible sources of providing the people that could assist in the project were discussed that included the Dept. of Corrections Youth work force. Ms. Mason volunteered to contact the township maintenance depart. Mr. Suessenguth indicated he had a contact at the Dept. of Corrections Youth Center. Additional sources of assistance could include the Civil Air Patrol, Youth Detention Center, township maintenance.

Mr. Suessenguth introduced how VAC can administer plans for a Veterans Day celebration at Tri Angle Park on November 11, 2022. Ms. Wirth-Torrente commented that Congressman Fitzpatrick could be contacted to check his availability, as well as involving local schools in the event.

Veteran/First Responder Lamp Pole Flags - Ms. Wirth-Torrente introduced and open discussion for VAC consideration implementing a "Lamp Pole Flag" campaign. Three options were presented by Ms. Wirth-Torrente which include:

1. Flags would be purchased by the family members or friends

2. Business company sponsorship potential and,
3. Corporate Sponsor program.

Ms. Wirth-Torrente volunteered to head up the campaign. The implementation of a database system be established which would allow interested parties to access the steps which would be taken to purchase the “flag”, costs; process to purchase, where the “flag” would be located, ways to attach “flag”, etc.

VAC initial responsibility is to determine:

1. How large or small the project process will be
2. Develop a link interested parties could access
3. Develop the advertising process.

Ms. Wirth-Torrente has already done considerable research and investigation into the program development and will continue to research and report back on progress.

Pros and Cons were discussed which included the initial step of writing a proposal or memo that can be introduced to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Suessenguth introduced the concept of implementation of a “Legacy Program” which would provide interested parties to perhaps purchase “Recognition Bricks” which could be installed at Tri Angle Park or other locations throughout the Township.

It was the consensus of VAC to meet on July 27, 2022 at 7 pm and further discuss some of the ideas that VAC want to accomplish.

Adjournment:

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30PM on motion of Mr. Suessenguth, seconded by Mr. Navarre. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

William C. Navarre, Jr.
VAC Secretary.

