

Veterans Committee Minutes
April 1, 2013 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman M. Johnson; Supervisors Collyer, Hargrave, Kinowski, Lucia, Richardson, Southworth and Sausville; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Josie DeLong, Felipe Moon, Veterans Agency; Amy Hughes, Peer to Peer Program; Press.

Chairman M. Johnson called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Lucia the minutes of the March 4, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Moon introduced a flyer "Ride with the Vets" to the committee members that will take place in Glens Falls on May 19th. Registration is available on line at gwotmonument.org for \$75 per rider. Proceeds will go toward Development of a Global War on Terrorism Monument in Crandall Park.

Mr. Moon said all committee members will be receiving an Executive Summary Report from the Veterans Agency every Friday by the close of business. This is an effort towards transparency in the office showing both the good and the bad, he said.

Mr. Moon said he is going to try and get accredited, asking Mr. Moore for training funds so we can be competitive by other areas such as the VFW and the Vietnam Veterans Association. He said if they do a claim for Agent Orange, the Vietnam Veterans Association has other resources and another way in to the VA to support that. The Division of Veterans Affairs of New York is encouraging us to get more accreditations, he said. There are only two accreditations, New York State and the VFW, which allows for better services for Veterans.

Mr. Moon said Ms. DeLong will be the point of contact for the Veterans Outreach which will include the Honor our Deceased Veterans program and other programs that have not been disclosed as yet.

Mr. Moon said the Service to the Armed Forces representative will be working with the Veterans Agency to develop a partnership to combine resources to help Veterans in Saratoga County.

A copy of Mr. Moon's training schedule was distributed to all committee members for their review.

A listing of Veteran claims that have not been completed was also distributed to the committee for review.

Mr. Kinowski expressed his concerns for additional licensing, stating that it is great to be able to do it all, but it is also problematic. Mr. Moon said that is one of the reasons that they will be reaching out to the Red Cross and their affiliates.

Ms. Hughes said things are moving along with regard to the Peer to Peer Program with mentor training scheduled for April 12th. There will be two mentors coming back for training and four new ones. Ms. Hughes said she spoke at the Aging and Disability Network to give them information about the Peer to Peer Program. She said she also attended the Interagency Fair and the VA Job Fair in Albany and obtained two applications for mentors from those events. On June 16, 2013 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Saratoga Military Museum there will be an event inviting a lot of people, in an effort to get the word out about the Peer to Peer Program, as well as networking.

Mrs. Johnson asked if the grant for the Peer to Peer Program had been extended. Ms. Hughes said that they had received notice from Senator Marchione's office that it had been extended by \$185,000 beginning in 2014.

Mrs. Johnson said there has been no change since last month in the Veteran's Trust Fund.

Mrs. Johnson said there will be a Yellow Ribbon Day Ceremony at the Wilton Elks on Friday, April 12th.

Mr. Moore gave a brief update on the renaming of the highway as follows: In 2009 the route that the Board of Supervisors approved began in Saratoga Springs going out Rt. 29 and down Rt. 4 and 32 into Waterford. The problem was that the section of Rt. 29 had already been named. What happened from that point is that the Rt. 29 portion was dropped off the bill leaving only the Rt. 4 and 32 portion from Schuylerville to Waterford. There was legislation introduced in Albany in 2011 which carried through into 2012. The Board of Supervisors approved a resolution backing the route from Schuylerville to Waterford. In March of 2012, two months before that resolution was passed, there was some discussion about wanting the route to go around Saratoga Lake and pass over the Veterans Memorial Bridge over Fish Creek. In May a bill was passed for the route from Schuylerville to Waterford because the legislation was already there. The following month, Senator McDonald amended the bill to follow the committee's wishes from March and there was an error made and the Assembly never carried the amendment forward; therefore, another year was lost. In January of 2013 the committee endorsed the route and Senator Marchione fixed the problem with the location, so the route that we had in Albany was the route that was approved in January plus the Southern portion into Waterford. Mr. Moore said he met with Senator Marchione in February and asked that her office research the route with DOT to make sure that the same problem wouldn't arise from the initial route in 2009. DOT came back with the research stating that DOT is required by NYS law to follow the provisions of the National Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. What that says, is the honorary naming of highways can have a sign at the beginning and end of the route. To have a route that follows multiple roads doesn't work because the signs are not to direct motorists where to go, they are supposed to mark a clear beginning and end. Senator

Marchione's office is going to follow up with DOT with regard to the route from Schuylerville to Waterford to make sure that it isn't already named and that there are no other issues. Mr. Moore said, hopefully, we will be able to amend the Senator's bill that was put in this year to go back to that route and move forward.

Mrs. Johnson said Senator Marchione has sent out forms requesting names for nominees for the Veterans Hall of Fame for the 43rd Senate District. Mrs. Johnson said she has already spoken with Mr. Moon with regard to Mr. Corsale's name being submitted. Mrs. Southworth suggested that Mr. Sqambati, a former Supervisor from Mechanicville, be submitted as well.

Mrs. Johnson said she would contact Senator Marchione to find out whether there can be more than one name submitted from the same organization and will report back to the committee via email.

Mr. Kinowski asked Mrs. Johnson if she would ask Senator Marchione if there could be an outstanding candidate from each of the particular wars involved.

Mr. Kinowski said he received a request from a resident in November about increasing the Veteran benefit for assessment purposes. He said the Town of Stillwater has approved raising their assessment benefit from \$80,000 to \$120,000. He suggested that other towns might want to look into this when doing their budgets.

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Richardson the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom