

Town of Hope Mills
Veterans Affairs Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 24, 2019

1. Meeting called to order at 1856 by Grilley Mitchell.
2. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll Call:

Members

Grilley Mitchell
Meghan Freeman
Ron Maury
Jessie Bellflowers
Jim Blevins
Bill Greene
John Cook
Al Ferri
Greg Dickerson
Jim Morris

Guests

Elizabeth Blevins
Mrs. Mitchell

Not present were Donna Maury, Clinton Murray

4. Agenda was approved.
5. Meeting minutes from the October 25, 2018, meeting were approved.
6. Old Business:

a. Discussion and approval of the vision and goals for the Commission.

i. Jim Blevins provided a draft Mission Statement and Goals which were approved. See Attachment 1. **(Closed)**

b. Discussion of some businesses processes and rules. **(Closed)**

i. Agenda – Approximately one week prior to the Agenda due date, a notice will be sent by the secretary to all members of the commission requesting inputs for agenda items in the upcoming meeting. Our Town Liaison will compile inputs and make the final copy available to all members and the Town Clerk five days prior to the adopted meeting date per Commission guidelines.

ii. Quarterly Report – Per Commission guidelines, we are required to submit a Quarterly Report of our activities to the Hope Mills Board of Commissioners. The Secretary will compile the report and the Commission will review and approve the Report at the end of each quarter. The Chairman will then submit the report to the Board of Commissioners

iii. Calendar observances – Jim Morris has a list of Veterans’ Observances that is meant to be a living document to be updated as Commission members become aware of events.

iv. Social media presence – Meghan is going to make sure that we can have our own FaceBook page independent of other Town Social media pages. When setup, it will be solely for disseminating information important to the Towns Veteran population.

Town of Hope Mills
Veterans Affairs Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 24, 2019

7. New Business:

- a. New member (Al Ferri) was welcomed. **(Closed)**
- b. A copy of the 2019 meeting dates was distributed to all Commission members. **(Closed)**
- c. A discussion and selection for in key positions for the year 2019 was held. **(Closed)**
 - i. Grilley Mitchel will serve as Chairman.
 - ii. Jim Blevins will serve as Vice Chairman.
 - iii. Jim Morris will serve as Secretary.
- d. A discussion was held considering the selection of a person to serve as a Public Affairs Officer. In conclusion, the Commission decided the person serving as Secretary will be dual-hatted in this role. **(Closed)**
- e. A discussion was held concerning the creation of an annual “Veterans Outreach Day” with the goal of having the first on in either April or May. All members are to report back to Grilley by next Friday to check on calendar conflicts and make suggestions on topics important to the local Veteran community. One goal is to have at least six sponsors. **(Open)**
- f. Jim Blevins presented the idea of having a “Veteran of the Year” award to be presented by the town in recognition of someone who has made significant contributions to the community. There will be more discussion of this topic in upcoming meetings. **(Open)**
- g. Grilley made a motion with 6 voting for and 1 voting against support for representatives for the local VFW and American Legion posts to have voting rights in the Commission. This will be presented to the Town Commissioners for approval. **(Open)**
- h. The Missing Man tables setup during this past Veterans Day collected \$91.12. The money was given to Meghan to hold and will be used during the Veterans Outreach Day event. **(Closed)**
- i. Grilley asked if anyone knew what our budget was. The topic was tabled for future discussions. **(Open)**
- j. A letter of resignation was submitted by Donna Maury and the Commission accepted it. Grilley will write her a letter of thanks and, will write additional letters of thanks to the “Venture Crew” who provided support during the last Veterans Day events. John Cook will gather their names. **(Closed)**

8. Around the table:

- a. John Cook briefed that the American Legion Post would be hosting a Pig roast at VFW Post 670 to raise money to pay for a new well.

9. Dates to remember:

- a. The next meeting will be February 28, 2019.

Town of Hope Mills
Veterans Affairs Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 24, 2019

b. The American Legion will host a 100th Anniversary Celebration Banquet on Saturday, March 16, 2019, at VFW Post 670.

10. Meeting Adjourned at 2037.


GRILLEY MITCHELL
Chairman


JAMES MORRIS
Secretary

Town of Hope Mills
Veterans Affairs Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 24, 2019

Mission Statement

The Hope Mills Veterans Affairs Commission advises the Board of Commissioners on matters of importance to Veterans in our City. As such, the Commission provides recommendations on programs, policies, and practices designed to assist Veterans, acts as a central clearinghouse for information, programs and services relating to Veterans and celebrates and honors the achievements of Veterans in Hope Mills.

Goal 1: Economic Development

Increase Veteran employment by advising the Board of Commissioners on ways to increase transitional employment opportunities, patronage of Veteran-owned businesses, and private business ownership for Veterans.

Goal 2: Awareness and Recognition

Increase awareness and recognition of all Hope Mills Veterans, service members and their families by advising the Board of Commissioners on ways to regularly celebrate and recognize our Veterans.

Goal 3: Information, Resources and Social Support

Serve as a clearinghouse for information pertaining to resources, services and social support available to Veterans in the Hope Mills area, in collaboration with the City and by advising the Board of Commissioners.

Goal 4: Underrepresented Groups

Identify and raise awareness of underrepresented Veteran populations by advising the Board of Commissioners about groups that may not identify as Veterans and therefore may not seek assistance.

Vision / Core Values

Serving Hope Mills Veterans with Pride, Professionalism, Respect, Integrity with Accountability, Diversity, and Excellent service.