



Veterans Advisory Committee

Meeting Agenda/**Minutes**

January 27, 2025

In Attendance	Committee Member	In Attendance	Committee Member
	Gordon Bell, USCG		Daniel Littley, USAF
	William Dauphinee USMC	X	Rich Marino USMC
X	Robert Dell, USCG	X	Joe Meehan, USN
	Barry Forgeng, USMC	X	Chet Ruminski, USN
X	Barry Kenyon, USN	X	Laureen Sendel-Grant, USA
X	Carter LeBrocq, USA	X	Stacy Spizziri, USA
X	Michael Lewis, USAF	X	Joyce Snyder, BOS Liaison

January 27th Meeting Summary

The meeting focused on committee reorganization, funding discussions for Veterans Park, planning for future veteran events, and cemetery restoration projects. Key issues included securing an entrance for Veterans Park, obtaining grants, veterans event planning and an article for the Spring Newsletter.

1. Committee Reorganization and Minutes

- Elections were held for Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary.
 - Michael Lewis was elected Chairperson, Joe Meehan was elected Vice-Chairperson, and Chet Ruminski was elected Secretary.
- Meeting minutes from the November meeting were approved.

Takeaways:

- Leadership positions filled.
- Previous meeting minutes approved.

2. Veterans Park Development & Funding

- Challenges in securing property access were reviewed, particularly regarding land controlled by Philadelphia Suburban Development Corporation (PSDC), Mark Nicoletti.
- Currently, the only ingress and egress point is the [Tennis-Lukens Cemetery driveway](#) (link to Google Map view) at the S-curve on Allenton Road. This is considered an unsafe entrance point. Additionally, there are grade and site-line issues.
- A potential \$100,000 donation was discussed from Mr. Nicoletti's private foundation.
- Engineering plans and RFPs for development are in discussion, pending finalization of park access.

Takeaways:

- Land access remains a major roadblock.
- \$100,000 donation offer must be confirmed.
- Engineering proposals should proceed once access is secured.

3. Cemetery Restoration Project

- Gravestones at Tennis-Lukens Cemetery need restoration.
- Proposal from Atlas Preservation Connecticut estimates the cost at ~\$10,000. Proposal was reviewed.
- Grant funding possibilities discussed, requiring a 50% match.
- Consideration given to including the Kulpsville Methodist and Episcopal cemetery in the request.

Takeaways:

- Restoration proposal received
- Grant funding will be pursued
- Scope of work to be finalized

4. Future Veteran Events & Outreach

- Planning underway for a Spring 2025 Veteran Social Event.
- Venue options discussed:
 - Firehouse no longer available
 - Possible alternatives include the Hatfield American Legion Hall or another community space within the township such as the Morgan Log House
- Outreach strategies to identify township veterans:
 - Township website and Facebook page
 - Newsletter to be published by February 14, 2025
 - Collecting veteran contact information at township events

Takeaways:

- Venue needs confirmation
- Laureen Sendel-Grant to connect with Bill Dauphinee on best method for identifying township veterans.
- Newsletter announcement deadline: February 14, before the next committee meeting February 24th.
 - A draft article for the Township's Spring news letter was created and distributed to the committee on January 28th highlighting the planned Veterans Social and status of Veterans Memorial Park.

5. Engineering Plans for Memorial Park

- Township will issue an RFP for engineering plans.
- Key challenge: Securing an entrance.
- Alternative entrance options discussed, including North Penn Water Authority property and potential easements.
- Joyce Snyder reached out the Township traffic engineer regarding a consult with PennDOT on the Allentown Road access point.

Takeaways:

- No final decision on entrance
- Engineering work contingent on securing a safe access point

Action Item Summary:

- Confirm possible \$100,000 donation availability
- Finalize entrance access strategy for Veterans Park
- Submit grant request for cemetery restoration
- Secure venue for veterans' social event
- Draft and submit newsletter announcement by February 14. First draft developed and distributed on January 29.
- Stacy Spizziri to forward 2024 Veterans Day Observance pictures to Chet Ruminski for township archiving
- Lauren Sendel-Grant to connect with Bill Dauphinee on veterans' social event

Minutes prepared by: Chet Ruminski

Distributed: January 30

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. COMMITTEE RE-ORGANIZATION - Led by Supervisor Snyder

- Chairperson
- Vice Chairperson
- Secretary

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Meeting of November 25, 2024
- Archive event photos

4. OLD BUSINESS

Planning for Future Events for Veterans

- Veterans Social for spring 2025

Status of Work to be performed at Tennis-Lukens Cemetery

- Cemetery Sign
- Headstone Restoration
- Landscaping

Engineering Plans for Veterans Memorial Park Development

- Initiate proposals for engineering plans

Future Township Celebrations

- Recommend a volunteer committee be started for major anniversary celebrations

5. NEW BUSINESS

- **An article for the Spring 2025 newsletter – due NLT February 14, 2025**

6. NEXT VETERANS COMMITTEE MEETING – February 24, 2025