



American Legion Post 75

Minutes of Meeting on **1 July 2019**. Meetings held at 23 Hutchison Street, Franklin, MA.
Mailing Address: American Legion Post 75, P.O. Box 42, Franklin, MA 02038.
Website: <http://www.mapost75.com/>

Officer roll call:

Commander - John Milot	Present
1 st Vice – Dick Hynes	Present
2 nd Vice & Post Service Officer John Hefelee	Absent
Adjutant – Kim Leone	Present
Finance - Kent Belcher	Absent
SGT at Arms – Juan DelValle	Present
Chaplain – Bob Markunis	Present
Historian – Steve Szilniczky	Present

- **14** members in attendance.
- Minutes from June 2019 meeting read and accepted.

NOTES

1. **Post 75 – If you need a ride to one of our monthly meetings, PLEASE contact the Post Commander John Milot 508-520-8771.**

OLD BUSINESS

1. Bob Markunis continues to book visits at Magnolia Heights, Atria and the Franklin Rehabilitation Center on Chestnut Street. Magnolia Heights visits are the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10:00 and Franklin Rehab visits are every third Saturday of the month at 2:00. Atria visits are luncheon events at 11:30 on the first Saturday of the month each month. Benchmark Senior Living (on Grove Street) sessions are scheduled the last Thursday of every month at 1:30.
2. John Hefelee is on the committee for the Veterans Walkway on the town common. Bricks will be for sale until they are sold out. Over 1500 bricks sold so far. The bricks will display the honorees name and branch of service. The honoree can be someone living or deceased and they do not need to be from Franklin. The names will be laser engraved with the information. The price is \$100 per brick. Applications can be found online on the post website or the VFW website.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Raffle – Still need donations for the raffle. Jim got the laptop for a prize. Also some Red Sox memorabilia has been donated to the raffle by the Boston Red Sox. The town permit for the raffle has been completed. Dick and Judy Hynes are donating the raffle tickets. The raffle timing will be after the road race. We will begin selling in September and hold the drawing in December. Other raffle items: a wine basket, a shower radio, a gift certificate to the Home Depot and B.J.s and a tour of the State House. It was requested that this committee prepare a letter for members to hand out to local businesses to request donations.



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2. The Wall that Heals will be in Bellingham MA in August (August 22nd through 25th). This is not the same thing as the Moving Wall. This is a huge effort that will require 150 volunteers. The Wall arrives on August 20th from Wayland at around 4:00. It will be assembled on August 21st. The opening ceremony will be on August 22nd and will include local dignitaries and singer Ayla Brown. Bands will be performing each night. August 23rd will be dedicated to Gold Star families. The cost to bring this to Bellingham is \$10,000 so the Committee is looking for sponsors. If you want to volunteer sign up at www.twthbellingham.org. They are looking for posts to assist with wreath laying ceremonies. They also need tents for the Veterans Outreach Center. There will be ceremonies each night at 5:00. This will be located in the outfield of the Bellingham Baseball field. They encourage youth groups to visit and they can accommodate up to 100 kids at a time. We received a thank you letter from the Town of Bellingham for our donation. Several people have volunteered already.
3. There was a surprise visit from Joe Manning from the Wrentham post at the meeting. The District is looking for a Jr. Vice. Is anyone interested?
4. Brockton VA – Matt will get a list of dates in August for a volunteer event at the V.A. and will notify everyone with the dates by email.
5. Guest speaker – Katie Walsh attended to talk about the services provided by Seasons Hospice Care. They are looking for volunteers to assist Veteran patients who often want to be in the company of other Veterans. Volunteers receive training and a background check is required. Seasons serves towns in the 495 area.
6. The Strategic Committee presented a SWOT Analysis of the Strategic Plan. All members are asked to complete this and return at the next meeting.
7. Veterans Coffee Socials are held at the Senior Center. These are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00. Starbucks provides the coffee and pastry.
8. Poker tournaments were discussed and a motion was made about moving forward with these using the VFW in Walpole. This was approved and the committee is proceeding with the paperwork.
9. There is a new American Legion Basic Training Course – see www.mylegion.org/training. Upon completion you get a pin and certificate of completion.
10. Sunday, September 8th – Rifle squad volunteers needed at Battleship Cove for a POW MIA ceremony– Kent, John M., Dave, Jim G, Dick Hynes, Joe Manning, Juan and maybe Steve will attend. There will be 2 practices for this in August.
11. The Post Historian – Steve S. is assembling archives. If anyone has any material or pictures, please pass this on to Steve.
12. Reminder to members that Post 75 has a display at the Franklin Historical Museum which is open most Saturday mornings.
13. Members please remember that Bob Markunis takes prayer requests for the sick. This will be added to the Post website.
14. If you know of any potential members, please direct them to the post website for membership information and an application and also let Dick Hynes know so that he may give them a follow up call.

COMMITTEES

1. Post Strategic Plan. Dave Labonte and Matt McGrath



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- a. Dave & Matt are meeting to discuss this effort. All invited to assist. Contact Dave or Matt for details.
2. Raffle committee - John Milot, Matt McGrath
3. Road Race Committee – Doug Wahl, Frank Coughlin, Jim Gurganis, Dave Labonte, Kim Leone, Judy Hynes, Juan DelValle
4. Franklin High School Scholarship committee. – Kent, Ray, Steve
5. Public Relations committee -John Hefelee, Steve S. and Jim G.
6. Assisting/Visiting Veterans in Local hospitals. Matt McGrath leads this committee.
7. The American Legion Boys State program. Committee members: John Milot and Doug Wahl.
8. Franklin Funeral Homes committee –John M, Matt McGrath, Jim McNeil, John Hefelee, George Ferguson, Bob Markunis, Kent Belcher, Dave Labonte, Jim Gurganis and Doug Wahl.
9. Uniform Etiquette Committee – John Milot, Steve S. and Bob Markunis