



## American Legion Post 75

Minutes of Meeting on **6 May 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 <sup>st</sup> Vice – Dick Hynes	Absent
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice & Post Service Officer John Hefelee	Present
Adjutant – Kim Leone	Present
Finance - Kent Belcher	Present
SGT at Arms – Steve Szilniczky	Present
Chaplain – Bob Markunis	Present
Historian - Matt McGrath	Present

- **15** members in attendance.
- Minutes from April 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 every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 2:00 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. Bob is working on setting up visits at Benchmark Senior Living on Grove Street. They are looking for volunteers to visit with veterans. They asked if anyone has any crafts or hobbies that they can share with the residents?
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. 250 new bricks will be dedicated on Memorial Day.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Raffle – Still need donations for the raffle. It was agreed that we should try to get a 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.
2. A speaker from Dementia Friends Massachusetts came to speak to the Post about making Franklin a more accepting place for those with dementia. The different types of dementia were explained



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3. The Wall that Heals will be in Bellingham MA in August (August 22<sup>nd</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>). 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 20<sup>th</sup> from Wayland at around 4:00. It will be assembled on August 21<sup>st</sup>. The opening ceremony will be on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and will include local dignitaries and singer Ayla Brown. Bands will be performing each night. August 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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. A motion was made to donate \$100 towards this event. This motion was seconded and voted in favor.
4. The Road Race Committee is working on the 2019 Road Race at the Remington School in Franklin. The date will be Saturday, June 22. Kim reserved the location and ordered the medals. Spittle Race Systems has been booked. Dave Labonte obtained the insurance. It was agreed to maintain the same registration fee as last year. Garelick Farms order has been placed and local newspapers have been contacted. The Committee still needs raffle items and sponsorships and volunteers for the day of the event.
5. Veterans Coffee Socials are held at the Senior Center. These are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00.
6. The Franklin Senior Center is putting together a trip to Baltimore for the Red Sox game for July 19 to July 21. Trip includes a tour of the U.S. Naval Academy.
7. The Senior Centers are looking for volunteers for their Flag Day Ceremonies on Friday, June 14th. Atria will be holding an event at 10:00 and Magnolia Heights will be holding an event at 11:00. Benchmark will be at 1:30.
8. Scholarships update – This year 3 scholarships will be awarded. One to a student at Tri-County and 2 to students at FHS. The scholarships are \$500 each. The ceremony is at FHS on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Kent and John M. will attend.
9. Post elections coming up at next meeting. Incumbents were nominated. Also, Steve S. expressed interest in the Historian position. Juan D. was nominated for Sgt. At Arms. Nominations are now closed. Elections will be held at the June meeting.
10. There is a new American Legion Basic Training Course – see [www.mylegion.org/training](http://www.mylegion.org/training). Upon completion you get a pin and certificate of completion.
11. Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> – Rifle squad volunteers needed at Battleship Cove – Kent, John M., Dave and maybe Steve will attend.
12. Legion Baseball – Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 they need a color guard for the game. For further discussion at the June meeting.
13. Military Retiree Appreciation Day – Hanscom AFB on May 10<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 to 2:00 – Building 1425.



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14. Memorial Day breakfast will be held at the Senior Center on Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. Sign up at the Senior Center.
15. We are sponsoring 2 youths for boys state and 2 for the State Trooper program.
16. Memorial Day Ceremonies are coming up..John H. has purchased the poppies. Volunteers will be needed for this day. John M. will be the Grand Marshall. John H. will be working at the Veterans Walkway. Kim L. will lead the poppy drive. Poppy volunteers will be Bob M, Bruce and Judy H. Poppy volunteers should meet at 9:45 at the Gazebo on the Common. The rifle squad will be Kent, Juan and Steve. Practices will be Saturday at King Street – 10:00 on May 11<sup>th</sup>, May 18<sup>th</sup> and May 25<sup>th</sup>. Color Guard volunteers are Dave and Dick H.
17. Reminder to members that Post 75 has a display at the Franklin Historical Museum which is open most Saturday mornings.
18. Members please remember that Bob Markunis takes prayer requests for the sick. This will be added to the Post website.
19. 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
  - 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 Hefele, 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 Hefele, George Ferguson, Bob Markunis, Kent Belcher, Dave Labonte, Jim Gurganis and Doug Wahl.
9. Uniform Etiquette Committee – John Milot, Steve S. and Bob Markunis