



## American Legion Post 75

Minutes of the Zoom Meeting on **3 May 2021**. Meetings are normally held at 23 Hutchison Street, Franklin, MA. but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, meetings are being held through Zoom.

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	Present
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice & Post Service Officer John Hefelee	Absent
Interim Adjutant – Bruce Watkins	Present
Finance - Kent Belcher	Present
SGT at Arms – Juan DelValle	Present
Chaplain – Bob Markunis	Present
Historian – Steve Szilniczky	Present
Quartermaster – Dave Labonte	Present

- **12** members in attendance.
- Minutes from the April 2021 are on the post's website and were accepted.

### NOTES:

1. Kent Belcher has requested that someone take over his duties as the Post's finance officer.
2. Bruce Watkins has been appointed as the interim Adjutant replacing Kim Leone until elections are held.

### OLD BUSINESS

1. The visits by our Chaplain Bob Markunis to Franklin's assisted living facilities have been suspended due to the pandemic. Once it is determined that this will be safely allowed, a schedule will be determined and put forth at our meetings and in these notes to allow members to participate. Bob has been in contact with Benchmark and is attempting to figure a way for our returning to visit them as they seem to be closest in opening up to outsiders.
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 1600 bricks have been 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.
3. John Hefelee was in contact with St. Mary's Cemetery and was given permission for the post to be able to trim around and wash off the veterans' plaques. Kent and his son have done very well getting a start on this job. Work continues to be done. It is hoped that the entire cemetery can be done by Memorial Day.
4. Road Race – It was confirmed that the road race for this year is canceled due to the pandemic.



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5. A Franklin squadron of the Sons of the Legion has begun to get going with paperwork, etc. being done in coordination with our post and state. Alan Earls has been spearheading this endeavor and has been named the Commander Adjutant. If any member knows of anyone who may be qualified to join the squadron, they can contact Alan.
6. There was interest from a Wrentham squadron to start a Sons of the Legion chapter in Franklin. The Post needs to initiate this. By-laws will need to be drafted. John H., John M. and Bob agreed to look into this further. The squadron could assist with our efforts and events.
7. John Hefe's wife has offered to sew patches on uniforms for free if assistance is needed.
8. 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.
9. The Post Historian, Steve S. is assembling archives. If anyone has any material or pictures, please pass them on to Steve.
10. Members, please remember that Bob Markunis takes prayer requests for the sick. This will be added to the Post website.
11. 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.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. The Finance officer gave the finance report and it was approved. The post is still 6 individuals short of having a 100% membership renewal for the year. The commander and 1<sup>st</sup> vice commander will be making calls in order to get to the 100% renewal. The post received a ribbon from district for having a 100% membership renewal for 2020.
2. John H. informed the post that the coffee social which has been held virtually since the start of the pandemic was going to be held live/in person at the Franklin Senior Center the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00a. It has been requested that if you plan on attending, to contact Debra Martin in the Veteran's Service Office as only a certain number of individuals are currently allowed in the room where it is held.
3. The commander stated that the Veteran's Service Officer would like the post to get together its rifle squad and color guard to perform at the small ceremony which will be held at the town common on Memorial Day. There will be no parade or speakers this year but the names of Franklin's veterans lost since last Memorial Day will be read and honored as in the past. Practices for both the color guard and rifle squad are to be held on May 8 and May 22 at 1000 hours.
4. The Franklin Walgreens has begun giving Covid vaccine shots and is currently taking appointments. John H. is also trying to determine who has been fully vaccinated. This is being done in order to hopefully being able to hold our monthly meetings at the Community Cable TV station.
5. Chaplain Bob thanked the post for helping him with the funeral expenses for his wife Bonnie. He told the post that a memorial service will be held on Wednesday June 7 at 11:00-1200 with burial following at the Bourne National Cemetery. As a post, we will do anything to help out a brother.
6. Steve S., the post historian, is going to write up an article about the scholarships to the high school students.
7. The quartermaster currently has 2 jackets (1 lg., 1 Xlg), 3 pairs of dress pants and 1 garrison cap. If any member needs help in purchasing any uniform needs, please contact the quartermaster, Dave Labonte.



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8. A young man from Medway has been selected to attend Boys State this summer.
9. The scholarship awards were announced. They are being given to Erin Collins and Ian Belcher, both of Franklin High School. We congratulate both of these fine young individuals and wish them the best in all of their future endeavors.
10. There was serious fire at the Central Park Terrace apartments in Franklin. There is a fund setup at Dean Bank to help those affected by the fire. The post is donating \$100 to the fund and giving another \$100 to Chaplain Bob who resides there.

### COMMITTEES

1. Post Strategic Plan. Dave Labonte and Matt McGrath and Dick Hynes.
2. Raffle committee - John Milot, Matt McGrath, Dick Hynes and Dave Labonte
3. Road Race Committee – Doug Wahl, Frank Coughlin, Dave Labonte, Kim Leone, Judy Hynes, Juan DelValle
4. Franklin High School Scholarship committee. – Kent, Ray, Steve
5. Public Relations committee -John Hefeale, Steve S.
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 Hefeale, Bob Markunis, Kent Belcher, Dave Labonte, and Doug Wahl.
9. Uniform Etiquette Committee – John Milot, Steve S. and Bob Markunis.