



Maine Veterans in Need  
May 21, 2024  
Meeting place is  
Mid-Coast Veterans Council  
at 1:00 PM  
Zoom Call information  
1 646 876 9923 US (New York)  
1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
Meeting ID 881 3758 0485  
Passcode 777765

Meeting Started at 1:02 PM

Attendance:

David Patch, MVN President  
Mike Roy, Preble Street, MVN Vice President  
James Bachelder, Maine VFW, MVN Veteran Outreach Officer  
Rich Pelletier, Bangor Vet Center  
Angela Greenwald, Androscoggin Bank  
Matt Kennedy - MBVS  
Scott Swisher – MBVS  
Marty Diller - MCVC  
Kriston Gillis – Health Affiliates of Maine  
Eddie Grey Fox - Wellness Mobile  
Celeste Stimpson – American Red Cross

Agenda accepted with no opposition.

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept the May meeting minutes by:  
Eddie Grey Fox, seconded by Marty Diller, so voted.

Treasurer's Report: Lodging account balance is \$3,556.57, Operating account balance is \$20,775.44. Total all accounts is \$24,332.01.  
Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report by: Jim Bachelder, seconded by: Mike Roy so voted.

Elks - \$500 used for receiving furnishing from the donor.

VFW: Hotel Stays \$3,554.97 –\$1,260 has been set aside to fix the 90 pairs of pants leaving \$2,294.97.

1. Eddie Grey Fox – follow up on contacts for statewide transportation from the State of Maine. Dave will reach out to the contact.
  
2. Mike Roy presents what services are available at Preble Street.
  - a. If a provider has a Veteran that is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless with a notice to quit, contact the Preble Street's referral number 800-377-5709. This will lead to a 15 to 20 minutes pre-screening/intake. It is required that you need to be

homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. With few questions it can be determined if you qualify for service. If the Veteran is within 30 days of becoming homeless, they can receive services with Preble Street

- i. Everyone needs to go thru this que.
  - b. Case workers are in our 3 offices, Bangor Waterville to top of Maine and along the Canadian border, region 2 is below Waterville to Windham/Grey area from the New Hampshire border to the coast. The Portland office covers Cumberland south. Finish
  - c. The Veteran needs to fall within 80% of the VA area income. Lewiston is \$3,400 and \$6,400 in Portland.
  - d. We have landlord incentives to accept a homeless Veteran with a one-year lease. It doesn't need to be kept in escrow. The landlord is free to use it anyway they see fit. This helps us find housing for some of our toughest clients. This is new this year.
  - e. Two years ago, we started another program that will pay half of a Veteran's rent for up to 2 years.
    - i. We work with there Veterans to increase their income with an increase in their service-connected disability or a new job with a higher income. If we can't raise the income then we try to get them on a voucher program. We can handle 80 to 100 Veterans in this program.
  - f. Team centers can handle almost everything a Veteran can need.
3. SSVF grant Is out primary source of funding. We do receive other grants. One is used for advertising for the housing 100 Veterans and other media services.
- a. We operate in the gray areas. We try to do everything to help the Veterans. We try to make everything happen.
  - b. We work with all the other network partners. It is hard at the end of the day the landlord doesn't get his money.

Questions:

David – Does Preble Street have shelters?

Mike – No. We used to have a shelter that was taken over by the city of Portland. Hope House in Bangor has reached out to Preble Street to see if it could take over Hope House with hopes to prevent Hope House from closing.

David – Does the Veteran have to be VA approved for these services?

Mike – The Veterans needs 1 day of Active Duty to qualify for these services and not dishonorable discharged. We have been able to include some Veterans with dishonorable discharges that were not tried by a court tribunal.

David – When you say referred out, what do you mean? Does this mean you refer it out and pay for the service or you refer it to another nonprofit organization and they take care of funding?

Mike – If the Veterans doesn't have healthcare, we work to get them enrolled in the VA healthcare. If that doesn't work, we sign them up for Maine Care. We work with Health Affiliates of Maine. Health Affiliates has the shortest wait time. We also have a health manager that will provide the transportation and hands on services to help the Veteran stay comfortable. This is what I call referring out.

Unfinished Business:

David – Matt, do we have any updates on the Stand-downs?

Matt – The updates are: October 2<sup>nd</sup> is at Hannaford in Portland again, October 9<sup>th</sup> at Veterans Park in Lewiston if it is open, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Tri-County Career Center in Bangor and on October 30<sup>th</sup> it will be at Mill Park in Augusta.

David – That will remain on my list until they are done. Does anyone have any information about the By-Name-List?

Jim – They are still working on the written standards. No more info is available until the next quarterly meeting.

New Business:

David – I have been working on this contact list for the past month. I leave out the names and other personal information to protect the Veteran's identity. It is a work in progress. We list the area and other information about the needs. In April we had 28 Veterans we assisted. We are on track to exceed that in May.

I had a Veteran in a car. The local police officer brought him to a hotel and we paid the cost. The Veteran wouldn't come to the phone to talk to me so I couldn't apply for the \$50 rebate. Lesson learned.

Another Veteran needed transportation to his chemo appointments. He had a ticket to pay so he walked several miles in the winter and contracted pneumonia and died before we could help him. We did a lot of work enrolling Veterans in the VA healthcare system.

Fundraisers – Going to several Rotary meetings. I'll be going to a church meeting as an awareness event not fundraising.

We have not made any progress on a transportation committee meeting but we are working together. The Augusta Elks storage is packed. There are more controls put on the storage. If you need something, you can all the contact and they will let you know if that item is available. There is an abundance of bedframes and mattresses, bathroom items and kitchen supplies. We know that there are several other groups with furnishings and we are working to get them all together.

Secretary position: We are looking for Jim's replacement. We are talking with Angela from the Androscoggin Bank

Treasurer position is also available. I can continue for now but should have a member take these responsibilities. There is an organization that expressed an interest in doing that. We will see.

To correct the agenda, our next meeting is on June 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be skipping July and August.

New participant:

Celeste Stimpson – With the American Red Cross running the Hero's Care Network in Maine New Hampshire and Vermont. We come across several Veterans in need and want to connect with your members for support.

David - Could you have a presentation for our September or October meeting?

Celeste – Yes.

David – Is September good for you?

Celest – Yes, keep me posted.

Jim – Old business is the flyers and tri-folds. They are being printed now.

David – We will not be attending the expo at Spuds raceway in Caribou. VETS trailers will be there and have some of our handouts.

Kriston – We will be there. We can putout some of your paperwork.

David – Great, maybe we can get the MBVS to put some on their table also.

New news is that the American Legion is not going to handle the VEFAP. It will all go thru Veterans Forward. At this time, they only have \$6.00. This is until September.

Does anyone know about Tunnels to Towers T2T.org? They spent over \$500,000 each year. They have a homeless Veterans group. They have 9 homeless Veterans hotels, villages and apartment complexes in 9 states and are building 13 more. They provide the same services we do. We need to find out how our Veterans can access their services. They have a lot more money then we do.

Matt has a contact for T2T. He will forward it to David.

Eddie Grey Fox – The MMCN Conference is on June 14<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland from 8 am until 4 pm.

Motion to Adjourn by James Bachelder, seconded by Marty Diller, So Voted.

Our next meeting is on June 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM.

Adjourn at 1:53 PM