

## Seacoast Detachment #394 Minutes of the 11 April 2022 Meeting at 1900 (Hybrid):

**1900 Opening Ceremony:** The Opening Ceremony was conducted by Commandant (Cmdt) Geoff Corson, acting Sergeant at Arms (SAA) Rich Pettengill and Chaplain (Chap) Roland Morin.

**Officer Roll Call:** Cmdt Geoff Corson, present; Senior Vice Commandant (SVC), Brad Howe, excused; Junior Vice Commandant (JVC) Dave Winters, present; Judge Advocate (JA), Dick Lak, present; Junior Past Commandant (JPC), Bob Niver, present (via remote); the Adjutant (Adj) remains vacant; the Paymaster, George Dow, excused; the Web Sergeant Tara Sue Myers, absent; SAA, Randy McNally, absent; Chap Roland Morin, present. There were six voting members (Corson, Lak, Morin, Niver (R), Pettengill, Winters) and no guests. The meeting was conducted in person and over Zoom. There was not a quorum.

**Minutes:** A motion to accept the Minutes from the 14 March meeting was not made since the Detachment lacked a quorum.

**New Members and Guests:** There were no new members or guests.

**Paymaster Report:** The checking account balance is \$11,551.48; the savings account balance is \$8,489.04. A motion was not made to accept the Paymaster's report since the Detachment lacked a quorum.

### Chaplain Report:

- The death of long time member Marine Charlie Smith on 26 March 2022 was announced.
- The death of long time member MSgt James Hasty, USMC (Ret) on 1 April 2022 was announced.
- It was noted that Marine Brad Howe's wife Cathy had passed away.
  - A Detachment sympathy card was routed to all who were in attendance to sign.
  - Detachment members were encouraged to send their own personal condolences as well.
- Marine Bob Leister remains in an Assisted Living facility in Dover.
  - Detachment members are encouraged to visit as their schedules permit.
- Marine George Lombardi is on the sick list recovering from serious neck surgery.
  - George has been able to attend Wednesday morning breakfasts, but has been cautioned to limit his activities until he fully heals.
- Marine George McCreary remains in an Assisted Living facility in Hampton.
  - Marine Bob Niver has been in touch with George's wife recently and she indicated that he is doing fine.
  - Detachment members are encouraged to visit as their schedules permit.
    - Of note, George does not answer his phone.
- Marine Spyder Soiett continues to suffer from a blood disorder and has been unable to attend meetings.
  - Cards of support are encouraged to motivate Spyder to get well soon.
- Marine Bob Niver indicated he was in touch with Marine Ed Vitagliano who now lives in Florida.
  - Bob indicated that Ed is okay, but suffering from terminal cancer.
  - Detachment members are encouraged to contact Ed and offer their support.
    - Ed's contact info is as follows:  
640 Edgewater Dr.  
Deerfield, FL 33442  
[edvitaterry@comcast.net](mailto:edvitaterry@comcast.net)  
Hm Ph: 516-218-4710  
Cell Ph: 516-271-1936
- Cmdt passed around list (also passed via email) of longtime Detachment members who are physically unable to attend meetings and their recent responses to a Detachment questionnaire.
  - Detachment members are encouraged to contact those on the list and offer their support.

### Committees:

### Scholarship:

- The final version of the 2022 scholarship Application was sent out via email to all members, it has yet to be posted on the website.
- Marine Dick Lak indicated he has not received any 2022 applications.
- Cmdt indicated that he would send a PDF version of the application to all of last year's recipients, two of who have already graduated.
- Marine Bob Niver volunteered to notify LtCol Drown, MCJROTC OIC of the Detachment's policy to award a scholarship to a deserving cadet of their choosing if they are otherwise qualified academically.
- Given the lateness of the posting of the application on the website and in order to expedite applications, Detachment members are encouraged to send the email/PDF version of the application to all interested family members since it is unlikely that it will be posted on the website.
  - Applications received by mail will be processed accordingly.

#### **MCJROTC:**

- No report was provided.
- Detachment Marines Bob Niver and Roland Morin mentioned that the Detachment has historically honored an outstanding cadet at the MCJROTC annual awards ceremony in May.
  - Marine Bob Niver indicated he would reach out to LtCol Drown, MCJROTC OIC to find out when the ceremony is and if we could participate with a Detachment Good Citizenship award for the chosen cadet.

#### **Communications/Website:**

- No report was submitted.
- The site now has a members' only link, but a shared password needs to be passed to all members.
- Assistance is needed to keep the website up to date.
  - Volunteers with IT experience can contact the Cmdt to discuss helping in this effort.

**Membership:** Nothing significant to report.

**Correspondence:** Nothing significant to report.

#### **Scouting:**

- Eagle Scout COH for Scout Derrick Fresco will be held Saturday, 23 April from 1500 – 1700 at the Saddle Up Saloon (<https://www.saddleupsaloonnh.com/>) Function Room 92 Route 125, Kingston, NH.
  - Cmdt will attend and present good citizen award to Scout Fresco.
  - Interested others are invited to attend as well.

#### **Public Information:**

- 2023 is 75th anniversary of the Detachment.
  - Committee needed to explore options to celebrate the 75th anniversary.
    - No proposal was forthcoming to form a committee since the Detachment lacked a quorum.
    - One suggestion is to bring the Guadalcanal flag to this celebration with corresponding press coverage.
- Marine Pettengill provided a report on costs to continue Zoom license to host/broadcast meetings.
  - The membership present, to include our one dial-in member, concurred that keeping this capability is a necessity to conduct Detachment business.
  - His recommendation, concurred to by members present at the meeting, is to renew the Pro license the Detachment currently has for \$190.00.
  - A decision will be rendered once the Detachment has a quorum.

## **Marine for Life:**

- Cmdt signed up for ETS-SP to be a transition sponsor and attended (via Zoom) first “cohort” training session.
- Marine Winters indicated that he had talked to Maj Hobert at Charlie Davis’ funeral in order to facilitate further investigation into whether there was sufficient evidence to submit in order to award the Purple Heart (posthumously) to Charlie’s family since his discharge paperwork indicated he received burns in action.
  - Maj Hobert asked that the Cmdt forward what he had to him for further investigation.

## **Donations and Gifts (Marine George Dow):**

- \$125.00 was donated by two Detachment members.
  - Subject donations were turned over to the Detachment Paymaster for deposit.

## **Awards (Marine Geoff Corson):**

- Certificate of Appreciation prepared for Mr. Greg Comeau, owner of Am Tech LLC and donor of \$1,000.00 to the Detachment.
  - Cmdt will mail the certificate to Mr. Comeau’s home address.

## **Honors (Marine Geoff Corson):**

- An awards ceremony was held for Marine Roland Morin for being selected as the Department of NH Marine of the Year.
- Honors for former Detachment member Dan Hildreth will be during 2022 at a date yet to be determined.
- After Action Report was given for honors for Marine Charlie Smith (see Agenda).
- Comdt reported his visit with the family of MSgt Jim Hasty, USMC (Ret) at his viewing 8 April 2022 and his rendering of appropriate honors.
  - No League tributes were requested from the family.
- Detachment will render honors (firing detail) for former Together-We-Served longtime luncheon attendee, and former FMF Corpsman who served with the 3rd Marine Division in Vietnam, Michael T. Lewis on Monday, 16 May 2022 at the Springvale Veterans Cemetery (<https://www11.maine.gov/veterans/memorial-cemetery-system/southern-maine/index.html>) at 10am.
  - NCOIC will be Marine Roland Morin.
  - U.S. Navy will perform ceremonial flag folding/presentation to NOK.
  - Final coordinating details will be provided closer to the event.
- Honors for long time Granite State/Department of NH Marine Frank Diekmann will be held at Camp Carpenter, Manchester, NH (<https://nhscouting.org/camp-carpenter/>) at 1000 on Saturday, 21 May 2022.
  - Marine Roland Morin will be the NCOIC for the firing detail.
  - Further coordinating instructions will be provided closer to the event.
- Memorial Day (Monday, 30 May) ceremonies at Boscawen will be hosted by Department of NH.
  - Details to be provided separately closer to the event.
- The York, ME Veterans coordinator (Barry Waddell) has requested a firing detail from the Detachment on Memorial Day at 1000.
  - NCOIC is TBD.
  - Further coordinating instructions will be provided closer to the event.
- GWOT memorial re-dedication firing detail, Post 35 Hampton, 11 Sep 2022.
  - NCOIC is TBD.
  - Further coordinating instructions will be provided closer to the event.
- Run for the Fallen 2022: American Legion Post 35 (Hampton) requests a firing detail for this year’s opening ceremony, which will be held on September 24, 2022, at 9:30 am at the Waterville Valley Resort.
  - Request includes a bugle player who could play “Taps.”
  - Website: <http://www.runforthefallennh.com/>
  - Decision needed on whether the Detachment can support.

**Pease Greeters** <https://peasegreeters.org/>

- See Agenda for detailed description.

**Dept. of NH (DNHMCL)** <http://nhmarines.org/>: <https://www.facebook.com/MCLNHMARINES/>

- The Department Quarterly Meeting was held on Sunday March 27, 2022.
  - Minutes of the Department's Quarterly meeting sent separately.
  - Next Department meeting will be 18 June, Gormley Detachment is hosting.
- 2022 Quad State Convention (22-24 April) hosted by the Department of Rhode Island at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, RI (see Agenda for further details).

**MODD #349** (Marine Roland Morin):

- There will be a Growl in a couple of weeks.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Replacement needed for Ceremonial Weapons Custodian (see discussion in new business).
- Disposition of old Detachment Display Case.
  - Detachment Cmdt spoke with Mike at Post 6 who is the acting Post Commander.
  - Mike would not commit to allowing the Detachment to use wall space in our meeting area to mount our Display case.
  - Cmdt will pursue this with Post 6 Commander and enlist the support of Marine Corps members of Post 6 (Marine Brad Howe) to make the case for allowing our Display case to be mounted.
- Cmdt routed roster of "unreachables" (defined as non-email users and shut-ins).
  - Urged Detachment members to contact our isolated members either by phone, personal visit or mail.
- Annual financial audit was finalized and distributed electronically.
  - The Audit committee is officially disbanded as there was agreement on the final report.
  - The report will be kept on file for future reference.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Market Square Day Date 11 Jun 2022 Time 9:00 am - 4:00 pm (<https://proportsmouth.org/events/market-square-day/>).
  - Marine Dave Winters researched cost (\$350.00) of attendance and conducting a raffle.
  - Discussion was conducted that cautioned that most of the participants in last year's Market Square would either not be available or have moved.
  - Marine Winters recommended the Detachment not participate due to lack of volunteers and costs.
  - Decision was tabled until such time as the Detachment has a quorum.
    - The Board of Trustees will examine pros and cons.
    - In order to avoid late enrollment fees a decision is needed prior to 11 May as this is the deadline for early enrollment.
- August date for picnic was discussed.
  - Typically it is one of the Saturdays of the month (6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> this year).
  - It was pointed out that, the Judd Gregg Pier adjacent to the picnic site will host tall ships and offer tours aboard to spectators the weekend of the 13th.
  - It was thought that this date may not be ideal as parking/crowds could become an issue.
  - A decision is needed once the Detachment has a quorum on the date of the picnic in order to reserve the UNH Pavillion.
- The Storage committee has taken stock of the Detachment's inventory of equipment thanks to Marines Geoff Corson, Roland Morin and Dave Winters.
  - Cmdt toured storage spaces in the basement of Post 6 with Mike, acting Commander.
    - Mike indicated the spaces sometimes flood thus storage is not ideal for items needing to stay dry.
    - Cmdt noticed that washer and dryer in the basement were on pallets which suggests evidence of flooding.

- Regardless, the Detachment's picnic gear (coolers, etc.), that would not be impacted by moisture are in temporary storage in the basement of Post 6.
    - A more permanent solution is needed on the remaining gear and rifles.
    - American Legion Post 35 in Hampton has volunteered to house the rifles.
    - Cmdt will follow up with Post 35 and discuss with the Board of Trustees disposition of the remainder of the Detachment's gear.
- As part of the discussion on the utility of maintaining Zoom capability, Marine Rich Pettengill recommended that the Detachment utilize Zoom for Committee meetings.
  - Members who were present did not discount this option, however coordination of a Zoom broadcast may be somewhat problematic.
  - Cmdt agreed to return to old method of Committee meetings where Committees meet one half hour prior to regularly scheduled meetings in order to limit Committee discussions/decision making during regularly scheduled meetings.
    - Marine Rich Pettengill suggested that this was a better use of time and would allow other activities during monthly meetings such as guest speakers, etc.
    - All in attendance agreed that carving out additional time, whether by Zoom or in person prior to a meeting was a better use of time.
    - Decision was tabled and will be discussed with the Board of Trustees.
- Marine Rich Pettengill delivered, to all Board of Trustee members present at the meeting, a proposal to modify/change 7 different articles of the Detachment Bylaws.
  - The Board of Trustees will discuss and provide a recommendation to the membership on disposition of the proposed changes to the Bylaws.
- Marine Dave Winters tendered his resignation as a member of the Seacoast Detachment, JVC and Chaplain.
  - Disposition of Detachment gear still held by Marine Winters needs to be addressed.
    - The Board of Trustees will discuss.
- A replacement JVC (an elected officer) is needed.
  - Nominations/volunteers are encouraged prior to the Detachment's next meeting.
- A new Detachment Honors Request form was authored by Marine Dick Lak that formalizes requests for funeral honors and solicits donations.
  - Form was passed separately via email and reviewed by members present at the meeting with no recommended modifications.
  - Form will be used in the future to help track level of funeral support provided to families and solicit donations to help defray costs of firing detail accoutrements.

### **Good of the League:**

- Marine Rich Pettengill indicated that his group of Salvation Army volunteers during the Christmas season were awarded the "Red Kettle Award" for excellence in fund raising.
  - Marine Pettengill is looking for volunteers for next Christmas season from the Detachment members.

### **Future Dates:**

- Next monthly meeting scheduled for 9 May 2022 @ 1900.
  - We will continue in-person/hybrid meetings.
- Wed. Breakfasts @ 0900 have resumed at Mainely Local Yolks (<https://www.facebook.com/mainelylocalyolks/menu/>) at 43 ME-236, Berwick, ME.
- Rochester Veterans Council Lunch @1130 suspended until further notice. <https://rochesterveteranscouncil.vpweb.com/>
- "Together We Served luncheon" <https://www.gyrenes.org/> @ 1130 U.S. Marine Corps, New Hampshire & Southern Maine Chapter will be continuing at Strafford Farms, Dover, NH (<https://www.straffordfarms.com/>) on 11 May 2022. All Marines, FMF Navy Corpsmen and Chaplains and Spouses are Welcome "Membership is

Free.” Time for the Gathering of Gyrene's 11:30 AM on the second Wednesday each month. We will be having our regular meeting and all safety protocols will be adhered to.

- Seacoast Veteran’s Conference 2022 Service Credit Union has a post on Facebook indicating that the conference will be held on 22 April (<https://www.facebook.com/SeacoastVeteransConference/> ).
  - Email to point of contact: Jaime Yates; Manager - Community Relations; Marketing Department Corporate Offices 3003 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, NH 03801; Office: 603.430.6983 | Cell: 603.957.8978; (jyates@servicecu.org) indicated planning underway to possibly have the conference on 24 September this fall.
  - Committee needed to study feasibility of Detachment manning a table for recruiting purposes.

**Closing Ceremony:** Cmdt Corson, Acting SVC Dick Lak, Acting SAA Rich Pettengill and Chap Roland Morin conducted the closing ceremony at 2030. The raffle was won by Marine Rich Pettengill who donated the winnings back to the Detachment.