



# Vietnam Veterans Of America

## Chapter One

[www.vietnamvetschapter1.org](http://www.vietnamvetschapter1.org)

NOVEMBER 2020

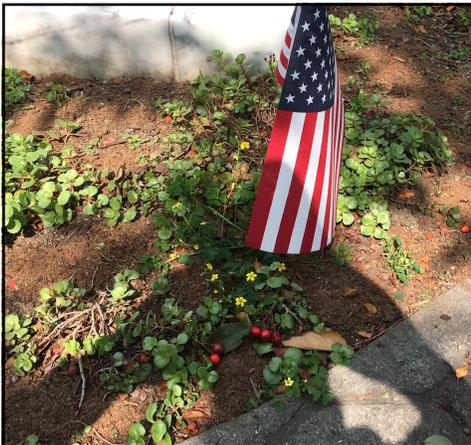


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### MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING NOV. 4, 2020

A nominal meeting of the Board of Directors took place. Directors present included President Andy Megrath, Vice President Tim Longergan, Secretary Jack Crowther, Treasurer Richard Reed, and directors Dick Doyle and Bill Ellwood. No Board of Directors business was conducted.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.



**Green, yellow, and red, the colors of the Vietnam Service Medal, are seen in the planting at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in this recent photo.**

Treasurer Richard Reed reported that the chapter had a total of \$47,656.36 on hand, as of the end of October. Tomasi's bar in Fair Haven, the source of most of the chapter's revenue through the sale of ripoff tickets, remains closed due to the pandemic. Richard reiterated that the bar hopes to reopen at some point in the future. Richard's report was approved.

President Andy Megrath will again serve as host for the Applebee's Grill & Bar in Rutland on Veterans Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11, when the restaurant provides a free meal for veterans from a selected menu. Non-veteran spouses or partners will pay the regular price. Andy said that because of the pandemic, anyone wishing to eat inside the restaurant would need reservations. Bar seating is not available. Applebee's is also working with the Moose Club and American Legion on this project, but details were not clear. Check with the restaurant by calling 747-7700.

Bill Ellwood gave an update on the archiving of Chapter 1 records. Besides 185 photos and 363 newsletters, we have added 87 newspaper articles to the digital archive, a collaboration between Chapter 1 and the Rutland Historical Society. The Rutland Historical Society website ([rutlandhistory.com](http://rutlandhistory.com)) provides a link to the material, some of which is stored on a much larger website, [archive.com](http://archive.com).

The photos, which document Chapter 1's activities through the years, are attractively organized into nine digital "albums." The Historical Society "has done a great job," Bill reported.

In connection with the archiving, Andy Megrath is trying to obtain old membership rosters from early days of Chapter 1. We have found some membership lists in the files but would like to have at least one membership list for each year since our start in 1980.

We approved a motion to spend \$25, if necessary, to buy a program to convert PDF computer files into Excel (table or spreadsheet) files. That would allow names to be extracted from the lists national VVA provides us, without retyping the information.

Bill noted that mention of the Chapter 1 archiving project will be included in the Annual Report of the Historical Society in the Rutland City Annual Report.

Tim Lonergan is a volunteer with Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports, a non-profit organization that provides activities for disabled persons, including veterans, both able-bodied and disabled. Last September, Chapter 1 approved a \$1,000 donation to Vermont Adaptive, with the understanding the contribution might be renewed annually.

Tim provided a list of activities this year under Vermont Adaptive's Veterans Ventures program. The program served 148 veterans, 54 of whom were from the southern Vermont area. Activities were suspended in early March, due to the coronavirus, but resumed July 16 with a paddle and hike at Kent Pond.

All events have been free for veterans, including equipment, lessons and tickets. Activities included rock climbing, ice climbing, paddle sports, golf, skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, fishing, hiking, cycling, mountain biking, trail riding and more. There were five multi-day retreats. Participants included veterans who had served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Vietnam, and Korea. Many have been diagnosed with a wide range of disabilities, from physical injuries to other trauma.

Jack Crowther moved to again donate \$1,000 to the organization. Seconded by Dick Doyle. Passed unanimously.

Tim Lonergan won the \$50 drawing among those who attended the meeting.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13, AT 4 P.M.  
AT THE VFW, 15 WALES ST., RUTLAND. A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
WILL PRECEDE THE REGULAR MEETING.**