

Veteran Advocate Nominating Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2023

1:45 – 5:00 pm

Date of meeting: Thursday, May 4, 2023

Start time: 1:47 pm

End time: 4:40 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Members participating remotely		Vote I*
1	Daniel Shark (<i>chair</i>) – Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS)	X
2	Sean Collins – Board of Trustees of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home	X
3	Emmanuel Dockter – Executive Office of Veterans' Services (EOVS) (<i>designee of Secretary Santiago</i>)	X
4	Brooke Doyle – Department of Mental Health (DMH)	-
5	Jeffrey Farnsworth – Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS)	X
6	James C. Fratolillo – American Legion	X
7	Gary W. Keefe – Mass. National Guard	-
8	Bill LeBeau – Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)	X
9	Caitlyn Letourneau – Office of Senator John Velis (<i>designee of the Senator</i>)	X
10	Tom Lyons – Board of Trustees of the Chelsea Soldiers' Home	X
11	Bridget Plouffe – Office of Representative Cassidy (<i>designee of the Representative</i>)	X

* (X) Voted in favor; (O) Opposed; (A) Abstained from vote; (-) Absent from meeting or during vote

Proceedings

Assistant Secretary Shark called the meeting of the Veteran Advocate Nominating Committee to order at 1:47 pm. He noted that all votes taken during the meeting would be conducted via roll call vote.

Assistant Secretary Shark summarized that at the last meeting, the preliminary screening subcommittee narrowed down the list of candidates to 7 individuals, whose first-round interviews will be conducted today and Friday by the subcommittee.

Assistant Secretary Shark provided an update that the Healey Administration, House, and recently released Senate budget all included \$750k for the Office of the Veteran Advocate as start-up costs FY24.

Assistant Secretary Shark declared that for the remainder of the meeting, the preliminary screening committee will enter executive session per Executive Session Purpose #8 to conduct an preliminary interviews of Veteran Advocate applicants as doing so in an open session will have a detrimental effect on obtaining qualified applicants. He noted that the meeting will adjourn from executive session and the Committee will not reconvene afterwards.

Vote 1 to approve preliminary screening committee to enter Executive Session: Assistant Secretary Shark called for a vote for the preliminary screening committee to enter executive session. Mr. Lyons introduced the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Fratolillo and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Assistant Secretary Shark noted that should members have any questions, they should feel free to reach out to Committee Staff. He reminded members that the next meeting will be on Friday May 19 at 12:45pm, where the subcommittee will conduct the final batch of interviews. He also noted that the meeting will now enter Executive Session with the preliminary screening subcommittee and that subcommittee members should enter a separate Zoom meeting, that will be closed to the public, which was sent to them via email.

The preliminary screening committee entered Executive Session at 2:00PM and adjourned at 4:40PM.