

Veteran Advocate Nominating Committee

Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2023

10:00 - 11:00 am

Date of meeting: Wednesday, July 5, 2023

Start time: 10:05 am

End time: 10:25 am

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Members participating remotely		Vote 1*	Vote 2
1	Daniel Shark (<i>chair</i>) – Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS)	X	X
2	Sean Collins – Board of Trustees of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home	X	X
3	Brooke Doyle – Department of Mental Health (DMH)	-	-
4	Jeff Farnsworth – Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS)	-	-
5	Jim C. Fratolillo – American Legion	-	-
6	Gary W. Keefe – Mass. National Guard	-	-
7	Bill LeBeau – Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)	-	-
8	Tom Lyons – Board of Trustees of the Chelsea Soldiers' Home	X	X
9	Erik Mayberg – Executive Office of Veterans' Services (EOVS) (<i>designee of Secretary Santiago</i>)	X	X
10	Mark Messer – Office of Senator John Velis (<i>designee of the Senator</i>)	X	X
11	Bridget Plouffe – Office of Representative Gerard Cassidy (<i>designee of the Representative</i>)	X	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 10:05 am. He welcomed members and noted that all votes taken during the meeting would be conducted via roll call.

Vote 1 to approve the 6/28/2023 and 7/5/2023 minutes: Assistant Secretary Shark requested a motion to approve the minutes from the Committee's two previous meetings on June 28 and July 5, 2023.

Mr. Lyons introduced the motion, which was seconded by General Collins and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Assistant Secretary Shark informed the Committee that in advance of the meeting, his staff had shared a copy of a letter received from Chris Shaw withdrawing his application from further consideration. Assistant Secretary Shark facilitated a discussion of potential next steps for concluding the interview process, proposing that the Committee could either move forward with the remaining three candidates that were interviewed on July 5 as the three nominees for the Governor, Attorney General, and State Auditor or arrange for an interview with the candidate who was unable to meet with the Committee on July 5. There appeared to be consensus among the group that the Committee would not interview the individual who was unable to meet on July 5.

In closing, Assistant Secretary Shark thanked members and noted that a full debriefing of the July 5 interviews would be held during the Committee's next meeting when more of the Committee's members were present. A discussion of the salary recommendations would also be held, as well as a formal vote on the three candidates' nominations. Assistant Secretary Shark explained that in an effort to expedite the nomination process, his staff would begin work on a draft letter from the Committee submitting the Committee's recommendations to the Governor, Attorney General, and State Auditor, to be shared with members at the next meeting.

Vote 2 to adjourn: Assistant Secretary Shark requested a motion to adjourn. General Collins introduced the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lyons and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.

Meeting Materials

- I. Letter from Chris Shaw