

**Somerville Veterans' Commission on Monuments, Memorials & Dedications
(VetCMMD) Meeting - *VIRTUAL**



KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR



COMMISSIONERS

Kevin Dickinson
Thomas Gorman
James Marques
Ellen Sullivan
Jodi Vachon
^Chair – Tom White

Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 19th, 2025 Time: 12p – 1p EST
Location: *REMOTE/Virtual Meeting

Members Present on Zoom: (^=non-voting member)

Present: Kevin Dickinson, Tom Gorman, James Marques, Ellen Sullivan, Jodi Vachon

Absent: Tom White^

1. Meeting was Called to Order at 12:02pm adjourned at 12:57pm
2. Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve January 2025 minutes by JVachon, 2nd by JMarques. **Approved**
3. Meeting Motions, Actions & Summary:
 - a) Meeting Motions:
 - Motion to approve Hero Square Dedication, Applicant Lyons- upon receipt of 100% SC verification *Motion* by ESullivan, 2nd by KDickinson. **APPROVED.**
 - Motion to order Lyons' sign regardless of pending documents beyond control of applicant: *Motion* by KDickinson, 2nd by ESullivan. **APPROVED.**
 - Motion to coordinate with VFW Post/Bob Hardy to correct and affix plaque on Dilboy Bust: *Motion* by JMarques, 2nd by TGorman. **APPROVED.**
 - b) **Actions:** The board will: 1)Update/approve Hero Square Criteria Form for next meeting; 2)Dilboy Statue at Central Hill plaque correction w/VFW; 3)follow up on temporary storage of monuments at Innerbelt Rd.; 4)follow up with any updates from City Council/Councilor Mbah on Central Hill project plans for monuments. 5)Provide a detailed list of activities and programs for Armed Forces Week May 17-24
 - c) **Summary**
 - Hero Square Dedications: One application was reviewed and approved. The deadline date to order signs for the Heroes Salute Dedication Ceremony 2/28/2025. Total number of signs to order: 4
 - Monuments/Memorials:
 - Dilboy Bust at Central Hill: Follow up & coordinate with the VFW Post for plaque correction. Confirm VFW has a corrected plaque and what support is needed to affix.

-Identify the next meeting date with the City/Mayor regarding Central Hill Monuments/Projects updates JMarques, Veteran Services Director JThomas.

TGorman wanted to add: a declaration that was made at the meeting that the Veteran's Department will have no voice regarding the Central Hill monuments being returned or relocated.

"The Veterans' Department is committed to supporting the veteran community and providing insight where appropriate. However, as City employees, staff must remain mindful of their roles and the boundaries of their involvement, particularly regarding decisions made by the mayor and administration. While input may be given, certain actions or advocacy efforts may fall outside the department's scope".

-Veterans Cemetery Project with selected monuments: FY25 CPA grant fund (File# 25-0059) approved/passed for condition & assessment survey.

➤ Events:

-March is Women's History Month: 3/17 Women Veterans Support Group. ESullivan will provide details for upcoming State WVN events and June Annual Conference.

-Greek Independence Day 3/22 with VFW, follow-up on Dilboy plaque correction

-Armed Forces Week beginning Sat 5/17 with Heroes Salute Dedication Ceremony. For the next meeting, members will list planned activities and programs which include concert, Veterans Appreciation Brunch, and Gold Star Families Recognition. JMarques will contact local veteran organizations to coordinate activities. Planning ongoing

-2025 Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony on 5/25. MDP Planning Task Force meeting is ongoing and is held every two weeks.

-Monthly Veterans Breakfast at SHS café on 2/27. Held on fourth Thursdays

-Bunker Hill 250th Anniversary in June, KDickinson will get more information.

-Monthly Caregiver Support Group underway.

-Coordinating with VFW Post 529 with MA 250th Celebration

➤ Discussions:

**Open to guests/public comments: NONE*

-ESullivan resigned as secretary but will remain an active board member (Internal assignment) Roles & responsibilities will be shared, and Nancy will step in and continue to assist with administrative tasks. Jodi will assist with slides/presentations.

4. Motion to Adjourn by TGorman, 2nd by ESullivan. Adjourned at 12:57pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, Mar 5th (2025) HYBRID