

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



KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR



COMMISSIONERS

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

September 18th Meeting Minutes *(approved 10/02/2025)*

Meeting Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 Time: 4:30p – 5:30p EST

Location: *In Person meeting at
George Dilboy VFW Post 529 at 351 Summer Street-Somerville, MA

Members Present:

^=non-voting member

Kevin Dickinson, Tom Gorman, James Marques

Members Absent: Ellen Sullivan, Jodi Vachon, ^Tom White-Chair
(Staff Liaison as Chair for this meeting)

1. Meeting was **Called to Order** at **4:55pm** **Adjourned** at **5:36pm**
2. **Prior Meeting Minutes:** *Motion* to approve 9/4/2025 MINUTES by JMarques, 2nd by TGorman. **APPROVED.**
3. **Meeting Motions, Actions & Summary:**
 - a) **Meeting Motions:**
 - **None**
 - b) **Actions: *The board will:*** 1)will finalize plan for next Heroes Salute Dedication ceremony 2)continue planning Veterans Day/Week 3)monitor progress of Korean and Vietnam Memorials-Central Hill Project 4)will track progress of FY26 Funding Cycle for Veterans Cemetery Project
 - c) **Summary:**
 - Hero Square Dedications:**
 - No New applications, next round of applications will be for May 2026 Heroes Salute Ceremony
 - Monuments/Memorials:**
 - Honor Roll* at City Hall Flag is being replaced. Current Central Hill Project Plans: will the Honor Roll be moved?
 - Community Preservation Act (CPA) FY26 Funding Cycle for Veterans Cemetery and selected monuments within city's: Daedalus Assessment Survey "Study" completed; full application has been submitted, presentation scheduled for October 22nd

- Korean War/Vietnam War Memorials (Central Hill) project will be completed by 10/10 with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony scheduled for Oct 16th working on guest speaker-designer/fundraiser of the memorials
- WWI monument in Union Square with chalk writing (cleaning protocol)

d) Events:

- ❖ **10/16** at 1p: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Korean/Vietnam Memorials at Central Hill
- ❖ **11/10 – 11/15** Veterans Day 2025 Activities planning:
 - 11/11:** Veterans Day Ceremony at Dilboy Post
 - Thursday, November 13th Heroes Salute Dedication Ceremony at Somerville High School Auditorium at 6:30pm (tentative). Guest speaker/chaplain-confirming
- ❖ **250th Celebration!** (Marines/Navy Birthday) scheduled for **Nov 6th**
- ❖ **Next monthly Veterans Breakfast** will be held at VFW Dilboy Post 529, then starting Oct 2025 back at Highland Café
 - 3rd Thurs** of every month: morning-Coffee hour at selected library; evening-Family Night at Dilboy Post
 - 4th Tues** of every month: COA Veterans Group

e) Discussions:

**Open to guests/public comments: NONE*

- passing of one of our Somerville veterans: Norman Furtado
- Search for a list of Somerville's Purple Heart Recipients for recognition during events-Purple Heart Day
- Outreach, programs and activities for veteran community
- JVachon has verbally indicated intent to step down due to time constraints and relocation; no formal notice received; revisiting open seat requirement

Next monthly meeting: 10/2 -REMOTE

4. Motion to Adjourn by JMarques, 2nd by KDickinson. Adjourned at 5:36pm