

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



KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR



COMMISSIONERS

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

Decemeber 11th Meeting Minutes *(approved 01/08/2026)*

Meeting Date: Thursday, December 11th 2025 Time: 4:30p – 5:30p EST

Location: *REMOTE/Virtual Meeting *~Rescheduled from 12/4/2025 canceled meeting~*

Members Present:

^=non-voting member

Kevin Dickinson, James Marques, Ellen Sullivan

Members Absent: Tom Gorman, Jodi Vachon, *^Tom White-Chair*

1. Meeting was **Called to Order** at **4:31pm** **Adjourned at 5:02pm**
2. **Prior Meeting Minutes:** *Motion* to approve 11/06/2025 MINUTES by JMarques, 2nd by KDickinson **APPROVED.**
3. **Meeting Motions, Actions & Summary:**
 - a) **Meeting Motions:**
 - None
 - b) **Actions: *The board will:*** 1) track progress of FY26 Funding Cycle for Veterans Cemetery Project 2) assist with Veteran' Heritage Grant project 3) review and make decisions on next round of Hero Square Dedication application 4) will begin planning phase for 2026 Armed Forces Day/Week 5) will begin planning for 2026 Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony
 - c) **Summary:**

Hero Square Dedications:

 - Three(3) New Applications
 - feedback from November Ceremony keeping venue
 - request SHS chorus students to perform a song for Heroes Salute *not replace Phaedra*
 - next Heroes salute ceremony date/time on Saturday send definite date once it's locked

Monuments/Memorials:

- Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) FY2026 Veterans Heritage Grant Application for Somerville Veterans Heritage Documentation & Digital Preservation project State Historical Advisory Board (SHRAB) Veterans Heritage grant(matched) was approved for \$12,500.
- Conservation Preservation Act (CPA) FY26 Funding Cycle for Veterans Cemetery and selected monuments within city Decision *still pending*.

Events:

- COA Holiday Party 12/16
- Coffee Hours 12/17
- Next monthly Veterans Breakfast** at Highlander Café 12/18/2025 9-1030a
- Somerville Flag Day 250th on 1/1/2026

Discussions:

*Open to guests/public comments: One guest, no comments

*New:

- planning for next year's parade 2026 and planning activities during Armed Forces Week from May 9th -16th(Armed Forces Day), partnering with surrounding communities
- start process in selecting 2026 Parade Grand Marshal by February 2026.
- start planning to have banners along parade route during Memorial Day KIA
- next lunch & learn for spring 2026 VetCMMD topics
- donated Socks and potentially having a Sock drive for the holidays
- Women Veterans Wellness Day: collaborating with the SHS Cosmetology Dept./students for March 2026
- March 14th 2026: Women's Veteran Network Luncheon

Next monthly meeting: Thursday, January 8th 2026 - REMOTE

4. **Motion to Adjourn** by ESullivan, 2nd by JMarques. **Adjourned at 5:02pm**