

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



JAKE WILSON
MAYOR



COMMISSIONERS

Kevin Dickinson
Thomas Gorman
James Marques
Ellen Sullivan
Jodi Vachon

^Chair – Tom White

March 5th 2026 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, March 5th 2026 Time: 4:30p – 5:30p EST

Location: *REMOTE/Virtual Meeting

Members Present on Zoom:

Kevin Dickinson, Tom Gorman, James Marques *^Tom White-Chair*

^=non-voting member

Members Absent: Ellen Sullivan, Jodi Vachon

1. Meeting was **Called to Order** at **4:33pm** Adjourned at **5:04pm**

2. **Prior Meeting Minutes:** Motion to approve **02/05/2026 MINUTES** by TGorman, 2nd by JMarques **APPROVED**.

3. **Meeting Motions, Actions & Summary:**

a) **Meeting Motions:** N/a

b) **Actions**

The Board will:

1. Continue coordination for the May 14th hero salute ceremony including chaplain guest speaker and color guard.
2. Continue the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Funding bidding process and
3. Assist with the implementation of the FY2026 Veterans Heritage Grant (SHRAB) project planning including volunteer/photo research support.
4. Continue outreach and planning for 2026 Parade Grand Marshal nominations, post parade activities, and Memorial Day Ceremony.

c) **Summary**

Hero Square Dedications:

- Second round sign proofs reviewed with one family confirmation remains for the six brothers (Spingel) sign layout.
- Ceremony remains planned for Thursday May 14th at 6:30 PM.
- Still need chaplain, guest speaker, and JROTC/color guard support.

- A possible hybrid meeting/walkthrough of the venue before ceremony.

Monuments & Memorials:

- Pre-bid site meeting held at Veterans Cemetery; two contractors attended and addenda are being processed.
- Both CPA and SHRAB fundings approved by City Council and Finance Committee; allow projects to move forward; implement tasks for volunteers.
- Hometown Heroes banner project still in design and development stage will be delayed for Veteran's Day; members to research veteran photos needed for banners via family outreach, library, and historical resources
- Massachusetts Preservation Project Funding (MPPF) matching grant deferred to next year.

Events:

- Women's Wellness Appreciation Day was held at the high school by cosmetology students; the event was well-received, and participants inquired about future dates.

2026 Veterans Office Monthly Events

- 2nd Wednesday: Lunch & Learn at Central Library
- 4th Tuesday: COA Veterans Group
- Thursday: Veterans Breakfast at Highlander Café

Upcoming

- **Veterans' Career Expo:** at Tufts (April)
- **Hero Salute** (May 14)
- **Salute to Service Parade** (May 16)
- **Memorial Day Ceremony on Memorial Day**

Discussions:

Public Comment - One attendee was present; no hands raised and no comments made or submitted via chat.

New Business & Planning

- Salute to Service Day Post-Parade Event at Trum Field (May 16, 2026): Event to feature family games, static displays, police vehicles confirmed, entertainment and JROTC drill team outreach underway.
-Seeking veteran-owned businesses to participate; military band entertainment being pursued but availability uncertain.
- Grand Marshal Nominations: Previous nominees unavailable.
-Commissioners will reach out to community especially from DAV, VFW and other community /public safety contacts such as fire & police departments; with the option to open to the public if needed.

-Also recommended building an ongoing community list for future candidates, including guest speakers.

Next monthly meeting: Thursday, April 2nd - REMOTE or HYBRID Format TBD

4. **Motion to Adjourn** by TGorman, 2nd by KDickinson. **Adjourned at 5:04pm**