

**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*

**APRIL 2<sup>nd</sup> 2026 Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date: Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2026 Time: 4:30p – 5:30p EST**

**Location: \*REMOTE/Virtual Meeting**

**Members Present on Zoom:**

Tom Gorman, James Marques, Ellen Sullivan

*^=non-voting member*

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

1. Meeting was **Called to Order at 4:36pm** Adjourned at **5:07pm**
2. **Prior Meeting Minutes:** Motion to approve **03/05/2026 MINUTES** by TGorman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by JMarques ***APPROVED.***
3. **Meeting Motions, Actions & Summary:**
  - a) **Meeting Motions:** N/a
  - b) **Actions**

*The Board will:*

    1. Continue Heroes Salute Ceremony planning, including guest speaker, color guard, programs, seating and event logistics.
    2. Continue and assist with the implementation of the FY2026 Veterans Heritage Grant (SHRAB) project planning including volunteer/photo research support.
    3. Continue parade coordination for 2026 Parade Grand Marshal nominations and parade participant recruitment.
  - c) **Summary**

*Hero Square Dedications:*

    - Hussey & Spingel Brothers signs order placed, and location will be verified by family members.
    - Ceremony remains planned for Thursday May 14th at 6:30 PM. Emcee: JMarques

- Chaplain has been secured, guest speaker requests to Ritchie Johnson, and JROTC color guard support request to Lawrence High School and East Boston.
- Reported three Hero Square signs damaged due to winter snowstorms; two (Scalese, Fedele) have been repaired and reinstalled, the other sign (Daly) too damaged to repair; new sign to be ordered and family notified upon reinstallation.
- A hybrid meeting/walkthrough of the venue before ceremony and coordinate logistics for presentation with SHS AV Club.

### Monuments & Memorials:

- Veterans Cemetery Restoration project (IFB 26-49) contract awarded to PR Monuments.
- Cemetery project is intended to be complete by Memorial Day, if conditions are allowed. If not, alternate Memorial Day Ceremony location will be needed.
- Veterans Heritage Grant -State Historical Review Advisory Board (SHRAB) Project site visits to begin; focus on inventory, archiving project targeting completion by November with final report due in December. Volunteers (ESullivan, TGorman, others) to be organized and outreach for more volunteers. Outreach to include historic commission (Larry W.)

### Events:

#### **2026 Veterans Office Monthly Events**

- 2nd Wednesday: Lunch & Learn at Central Library
  - 4th Tuesday: COA Veterans Group
- Thursday: Veterans Breakfast at Highlander Café April breakfast has been rescheduled for April 30 due to school break.

#### **Upcoming**

- **Veterans' Career Expo:** at Tufts on April 11th –**POSTPONED**
- **Hero Salute** (May 14)
- **Salute to Service Day 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**

- Brief commissioner membership/attendance discussed; staff noted that has been raised and pending guidance with advisory/board review process & audit of all boards are complete. No action was taken at this meeting.

- Salute to Service Day Post-Parade Event at Trum Field (May 16, 2026): CANCELED due to city and community concerns for military vehicles and equipment.
- Grand Marshal Nominations: Possible candidate Ritchie Johnson Somerville resident and soon to be retired two-star general, also requesting for Heroes Salute Ceremony guest speaker.

*Next monthly meeting: Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> -Location and format TBD*

4. Motion to Adjourn by ESullivan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by TGorman. **Adjourned at 5:07pm**