

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

May 7th 2026 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, May 7th 2026 Time: 4:30p – 5:30p EST

Location: *REMOTE/Virtual Meeting

Members Present on Zoom:

Kevin Dickinson, James Marques, Ellen Sullivan

^=non-voting member

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

1. Meeting was **Called to Order at 4:32pm** **Adjourned at 4:59pm**
2. **Prior Meeting Minutes:** *Motion* to approve **04/02/2026 MINUTES** by JMarques, second by KDickinson *APPROVED*.

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

a) **Meeting Motions:** none

b) **Actions**

The Board will:

1. Continue Heroes Salute Ceremony preparation, including ceremony format, color guard, programs, seating and event logistics. *Ceremony: Thursday, May 14th 2026*
2. Support Memorial Day Ceremony planning, including bugler coordination, and flag placement at the Veterans Cemetery, and assist with day of tasks
3. Continue parade coordination for May 16th Salute to Service Parade, including Grand Marshal logistics/vehicle coordination, and volunteer support
4. Assist with FY2026 Veterans Heritage Grant (SHRAB) work, including volunteer coordination, photo collection, and archiving tasks

c) **Summary**

Hero Square Dedications:

- Hussey & Spingel Brothers SQUARE signs are in; location verified by family members. Bios received, photos received for Spingel Brothers

- Heroes Salute Ceremony, Thursday May 14th at 6:30 PM; Herbert Spingel's Special recognition receiving the Korean Peace Ambassador Medal presented by Republic of Korea Consul General Kim

Monuments & Memorials:

- Veterans Cemetery Restoration project remains paused; Memorial Day Ceremony will proceed at the cemetery

Events:

Monthly Veterans Office Events: Veterans Breakfast, Council on Aging (COA) Veterans Group, and Lunch & Learns continue as scheduled

Upcoming 2026 Events

- **Heroes Salute Dedication Ceremony** – Thursday May 14th 6:30PM at The Forum -3rd floor, Somerville High School
- **Salute to Service Day Parade** – Saturday, May 16th Kick-off 11:00AM starting at City Hall Concourse ending at Trum Field; Grand Marshals: Gold Star Families; Gold Star Wives of America & the New England Regional Secretary
- **Memorial Day Ceremony** – Memorial Day, Monday May 25th 11:00AM at Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Discussions:

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

New Business & Planning

- Heroes Salute planning: staff & commissioners set-up and dry run, 5p at SHS
- 2026 Parade planning: Grand Marshal vehicle coordination with Herb Chambers Mercedes Benz Boston
- Memorial Day Ceremony planning: bugler outreach underway; DPW request submitted including grounds maintenance Friday morning followed by volunteers placing grave flags with flowers scheduled for afternoon

Next monthly meeting: Thursday, June 4th Virtual/Remote

4. **Motion to Adjourn** by ESullivan, second by JMarques. **Adjourned at 4:59pm**