

**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

June 4th 2026 Meeting Minutes

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

Location: *REMOTE/Virtual Meeting

Members Present on Zoom:

Kevin Dickinson, Tom Gorman, James Marques,

^=non-voting member

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

1. Meeting was Called to Order at 4:40pm Adjourned at 5:34pm

2. Prior Meeting Minutes: May 7, 2026 minutes were approved.

3. Meeting Motions, Actions & Summary:

a) Meeting Motions: Commission voted to postpone final Hero Square criteria/eligibility decisions, continue review, and return the recommendations to a future public meeting for action.

b) Actions

The Board will:

1. Develop clearer, objective Hero Square eligibility language and bring recommendations back for Commission review/action.
2. Continue Veterans Cemetery restoration coordination as the contract is finalized and work begins.
3. Begin SHRAB inventory/digitization work, including volunteer coordination, site photographs, condition inventory, and historical documentation.
4. Continue planning for the November Hero Salute and other Commission-supported ceremonies/events.

c) Summary

Hero Square Dedications:

- Commission reviewed the existing published criteria and discussed ambiguity in the terms “heroic or distinguished act” and “strong connection to Somerville.”
- Members discussed the need for consistent standards rather than case-by-case subjective interpretation.
- No revised criteria were adopted at this meeting; further review/training was planned before returning recommendations for Commission action.

Monuments & Memorials:

- Veterans Cemetery contract was being updated; restoration work was expected to begin after execution.
- SHRAB heritage-grant work will create an expanded inventory of monuments, memorials, and dedications with photographs, condition information, and historical context.

Events:

- *Monthly Veterans Office Events:* Veterans Breakfast, Council on Aging (COA) Veterans Group, and Veterans’ Lunch & Learns continue as scheduled.
- Commission discussed the November Hero Salute timeline and the four principal Commission-supported events: Hero Square dedication, Memorial Day ceremony, Salute to Service Parade, and Veterans Day ceremony.
- Additional collaborative event ideas were discussed for future consideration

Discussions:

- **Public Comment – None:** Opportunity for public comment was provided.
- Commission discussed future meeting/training logistics and communication expectations.

*Next monthly meeting: Thursday, July 2nd Virtual/Remote*TENTATIVE**

4. Adjournment Meeting concluded at 5:34pm