



City of Biddeford
Veterans Committee
October 27, 2025 at 4:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers & Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting Online
<https://biddeford.zoom.us/j/95924779149>
Or call in by phone: +1 312 626 6799

1. Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes
 - 3.a Approval of September 22, 2025 Meeting Minutes
4. Old Business
 - 4.a Veterans Day Activities
5. New Business
 - 5.a Potential Status Change of Veteran's Committee from Ad hoc to Permanent
6. Discussion/Review
7. Adjourn

City of Biddeford – Veterans Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: September 22, 2025

1. Roll Call

Present: Roger Beaupre, Eric Gates, Fred Oliver, Paul Therrien, Jake Hammer

Absent: Jennifer Fullmer, Ben Devoux

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting made by **Roger Beaupre**, seconded by **Fred Oliver**.

Vote: All in favor, motion passed.

4. Old Business

a. Bridge Naming Update:

No updates at this time.

b. Adopt-a-Flag Program:

- The flag at St. Louis Field requires lighting in order for Post 26 to assume maintenance responsibility.
 - **Ted Sirois** distributed printed copies of *The United States Flag Code* and encouraged the City to ensure all flags within its jurisdiction are properly illuminated.
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5. New Business

a. Veterans Day Events:

- **Roger Beaupre** met with Saco leadership to discuss potential parade logistics and raised concerns about whether the ongoing Main Street construction will interfere with events.
- The parade will begin at **Mechanics Park** and proceed along **Water Street** to main street and conclude at the CK Burns School in **Saco**, The parade will take place on **November 11, 2025**.
- If construction prevents travel north from Biddeford, an alternate route via **Lincoln Street** will be used.

b. Memorial Day Flags:

- **Dennis Letellier** volunteered to coordinate all logistics related to Memorial Day flag placement.
- The **City's Public Works Department** will cover the cost of flags upon receipt of an invoice from the Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs).
- All coordination will go through Dennis Letellier.
- **Woodlawn Cemetery** will collect flags on Veterans Day.
- **Motion:** Roger moved to appoint Dennis Letellier as coordinator for Memorial Day flag operations; seconded by **Eric Gates**.
 - **Vote:** All in favor, motion passed.
- **Eric Gates** requested that Dennis provide process updates to aid future coordinators.

c. Veterans Grave GIS Project:

- **Brown Dog Mapping** continues work on GIS mapping of veterans' grave markers.
- **Ted Sirois** expressed concern that many veterans' projects start strong but lose momentum. He recommended establishing a **central repository for veteran grave GIS data**.
- **Roger Beaupre** suggested the **City maintain GIS data and geographic information on veterans' graves**, regardless of cemetery ownership.

d. Historical Society Update:

- **Dennis Letellier** shared that the **Biddeford Historical Society** will host a Veterans Day event featuring a visiting General and distribution of military history books.

e. Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA):

- No updates were available on the planned **Vietnam Veteran Panel Discussion** at City Theater.
- The **Vietnam Veterans of America** is assisting Biddeford veterans with emergency needs, including up to **100 gallons of heating oil (one-time assistance)** and other support as resources allow.
 - Hardship documentation will be required.

f. American Legion Bottle Theft:

- Discussion held regarding theft of returnable bottles from the **American Legion**, which relies heavily on bottle revenue since it does not sell alcohol.
- The **Legion Hall** also serves multiple community functions, hosting **Girl Scouts**, **Red Cross blood drives**, and other activities.

g. Veteran Organization Membership and Collaboration:

- The committee discussed ways to increase VSO membership and awareness.
- **Ted Sirois** proposed forming a **Tri-City Veterans Group** (Biddeford, Saco, Old Orchard Beach) to improve coordination among organizations.
- **Eric Gates** suggested engaging local press to assist with outreach and recruitment efforts.
- **Roger Beaupre** confirmed that the **Tri-City Veterans Committee** concept remains under development and that there was **no objection** to including Saco and Old Orchard Beach.

h. Bridge Dedication:

- The bridge will be dedicated on Veterans Day.
- There are currently **no updates from the Maine DOT** regarding signage or labeling of the bridge.

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by **Fred Oliver**, seconded by **Eric Gates**.

Adjourned at: 5:24 PM.