

City of Biddeford
Veterans Committee Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2025 at 4:30p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers

1. Meeting called to order at 1630 hours (4:30pm)
 - Members present: Roger Beaupre (chair), Eric Gates (vice chair), Jen Fullmer, Fred Oliver, Quang Mihn Le, Kevin Locke, Paul Therrien Jake Hammer (city representative)
 - Members absent: Ben Neveux
2. Pledge of Allegiance recited.
3. Motion and second to approved meeting minutes from 22 September 2025 meeting.
Vote: All in favor, motion passed.
4. Old Business
 - **Veterans Day**
 - Discussed the parade route due to construction
 - Starting on Water Street at Mechanics Park, quick stop on the bridge for the unveiling of the new General Nutting sign, up York Hill, down Saco Main Street, Beach Street, Middle Street, and end at CK Burns school for closing ceremony.
 - HOB is still soliciting people to be part of the parade.
 - Gene Foster (USN CMC Ret.) recommended that the dedication of the bridge sign be held on Memorial Day instead of Veterans Day due to construction.
 - **Vietnam War Panel Discussion** – (50th anniversary Vietnam War official end event)
 - Jen said she reached out to Wendy at Biddeford Theater and they were checking with the board for availability to utilize the theater as a venue for the event.
 - Eric recommended perhaps holding it at the High School & tie it in with the social Sciences department studies
 - Jen said she would reach out to them too and update everyone on the final plan
5. New Business
 - **Status of Veterans Committee**
 - Discussed about whether this committee will move from ad hoc to permanent
 - Mayor Grohman began this committee as ad hoc (temporary) and it is usually typical for an ad hoc committee to dissolve upon a new administration taking over
 - Roger said that he was going to speak with the policy committee tonight about making the veterans committee a permanent committee
 - **Discussed the structure of a permanent veterans committee** to be comprised of all veterans, from Saco & OOB also
 - Roger said the goal would be to incorporate people from surrounding communities, a tri-city veterans committee

- **Purpose of Veterans Committee**

- Members of the local VVA post said that the committee should be more involved in helping veterans in the community
- Eric reminded everyone that there are federal & state programs that already exist and we should be a conduit so smooth communication occurs
- Discussed that the committee should be a place to receive information, share information, and provide the council with information on status of veterans in the community
- **Task – asked everyone to think about how the committee might serve as a “conduit,” as a uniting function and not try to duplicate what already exists**
 - Eric said he would send some thoughts to consider
 - Decision was made to discuss this more in depth at the next meeting

6. Veteran Organization Updates

- **AMVETS Post 1**

- Recognized as post raising the most money to send Maine high school students to expenses paid Freedom Foundation in Valley Forge, PA
- September breakfast raised \$650 for Seeds of Hope Neighborhood Center
- October breakfast for HS band, November breakfast for Toys for Tots, December breakfast for Biddeford High School scholarships
- Capacity of AMVETS function hall is 125 (if add lounge, then a little over 150)
- After Veterans Day Parade – complimentary community meal for anyone

- **American Legion Post 26**

- Opened up their hall quite a bit, lots of renovations but cannot do cooking
- Probably in March or April they will be able to do more: meals, help veterans, etc.
- Current utility: Girl Scouts, Wed Bible Study, Red Cross drives – will rent to any group
- Post has two service officers and they will help any veteran who needs it
- Capacity is sixty-five currently, once more renovations are complete it will be 75-100

7. Next Meeting & Agenda Items

- Monday, 26 January at 4:30pm at City Hall Council Chambers
- Agenda items
 - Biddeford Veterans Committee – status, structure, purpose, and recommendation

8. Meeting adjourned – 5:00pm