



**City of Biddeford  
Veterans Committee**

February 24, 2025 at 4:30 PM  
City Hall Second Floor Council Chambers & Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://biddeford.zoom.us/j/91915300320>

Or call in by phone: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 919 1530 0320

1. Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes
  - 3.a Approval of Minutes from January 27th, 2025 Veteran's Committee Meeting
4. Old Business
  - 4.a Adopt a Flag Program
  - 4.b Updates on Biddeford Bridge Renaming
  - 4.c National Vietnam War Veterans Day Commemoration
5. New Business
  - 5.a Presentation from Veterans Benefits Administration
  - 5.b Presentation from Veterans Health Administration
  - 5.c Presentation from Maine Bureau of Veterans Services
6. Discussion/Review
7. Adjourn

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

1. Meeting called to order at 1630 hours (4:30pm)

- Members in attendance: Roger Beaupre (chair), Eric Gates (vice chair), Jen Fullmer, Fred Oliver, Jake Hammer (city representative)
- Members absent: Kevin Locke (new member), Ben Neveux, Quang Mihn Le
- Resignations: Jessica

2. Minutes from 25 November 2024 were approved.

3. Old Business

- Flags on Veterans Graves
  - Roger confirmed that the city will provide \$5000.00 for flags for graves per discussion during the 25 November 2024 meeting.
- Bridge Naming Proposal
  - Name will be: General Wallace H. Nutting Veterans Memorial Bridge
  - Goal is to have the details and plaque finalized for Memorial Day 2025
  - Agreed that Memorial Day is perfect for special dedication ceremony & bridge naming
  - Waiting for: 1) State to approve, 2) work out payment details with Saco, 3) work out where the plaque will be located on the bridge (both sides, middle, etc.?)

4. New Business

- “Adopt a Flag” Proposal
  - Recreation Director, Lisa Thompson, presented a proposal for an adopt a flag program
  - Public works took care of the city flags before it was the Recreation Department
  - She is proposing a formal proposal to go out to organizations to volunteer to adopt flags in certain parks
  - Looking also for support and education for her staff on flag procedures, etiquette, etc.
  - Roger proposed that she put together a “written policy” so organizations understand the duties and responsibilities of the program
  - Lisa was asked to come back to further discuss at next month’s meeting
- VBA & VHA
  - These agencies will attend February’s meeting to discuss available veteran resources
  - Eric received the names of reps who agreed to attend the 24 Feb 2025 meeting
    - VBA – Christian Smith
    - VHA – Robert McCann (Rob)
    - MBVS – Gerard Dubois (Jerry)

- National Vietnam War Veterans Day – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
  - Don Chretien, Vietnam Marine and author of “Hovering in Harms’s Way, a Marine Pilot’s Journey to Vietnam and Back,” spoke on a few presentations he will be making in commemoration of Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day (03/29/2025)
    - 1) Sunday, 30 March, 11:00am at Union Church, Biddeford – Don will talk about his book in which he narrates his personal experiences as a Marine pilot in Vietnam.
    - 2) Wednesday, 30 April, 1:00pm at Biddeford Pool Community Center – “A narration and discussion of the fall of Saigon and the Evacuation of the Embassy 30 Apr 1975”
    - 3) Friday, 2 May, 1:00pm at MacArthur library’s community room – “The History of Occupation, Warfare, and U.S. Involvement in Vietnam.”
  - Don is hoping to tape the sessions
- American Legion Hall is showing a PBS series on Vietnam every Wed night starting at 1800 (10 part series)

## 5. Discussion/Review

- Veteran grave location
  - Roger said that he has noticed red dots on graves as he drove by St. Joseph’s cemetery.
  - Red dots signal where to put wreaths/flags
  - He said there is a plan to use GPS to determine all veteran graves so none are missed
  - Someone mentioned that Graig Morin, of Brown Dog Carriers & Logistics, will help know exactly how many flags we’ll need for each cemetery.
- AMVETS cemetery responsibilities – St. Mary’s, Woodlawn, Greenwood cemeteries
- Other Veteran Programs
  - Veterans Adaptive sports & Training (VAST)
    - Every Wed from 0900-1200 at Pineland Farms
    - Trying to get a program set up in southern Maine at UNE (always have recreational reps, reps from Togus, etc.) Trying to plant the seed at UNE – they have resources
  - Vet Center Tues & Thurs meeting at Vet Center at Sable Oaks, Mark is the lead

## 6. Next Meeting & Agenda Items

- Monday, 24 Feb 2025 at 4:30pm at City Hall Council Chambers
- Agenda items
  - Discuss possible additional bridge naming – Rt 111 bridge on overpass toward Walmart
  - Biddeford Recreation – Lisa Thompson to discuss Adopt a Flag policy for potential volunteer organizations
- Veteran Resource discussions with VBA, VHA, & MBVS

## 7. Meeting adjourned – 5:30pm