



**City of Biddeford  
Veterans Committee**

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

Join Zoom Meeting Online  
Or call in by phone: +1 312 626 6799  
Meeting ID: <https://biddeford.zoom.us/j/96514246638>  
Passcode: 965 1424 6638

1. Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes
  - 3.a Review/ Approve minutes from 24 February 2025 Veterans Committee Meeting
4. Old Business
  - 4.a Adopt-A-Flag Program
  - 4.b Bridge Naming
  - 4.c National Vietnam War Veterans Day- 50th Anniversary
5. New Business
  - 5.a Proposal to HOB for Vietnam focus/theme for Memorial Day or Veterans Day 2025
6. Discussion/Review
7. Adjourn

**City of Biddeford**  
**Veterans Committee Meeting Minutes**  
February 24, 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, Quang Mihn Le, Jake Hammer (city representative)
  
- Members absent: Kevin Locke (new member), Ben Neveux

2. Minutes from 27 Jan 2025 approved after correcting three minor spelling/grammatical errors.

3. Old Business

- Flags on Veterans Graves
  - No updates
  
- Bridge Naming Proposal
  - No updates
  - Goal is to have the details and plaque finalized for Memorial Day 2025
  - From last meeting: still 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.?)
  
- Adopt a Flag Proposal
  - No updates – Invite Lisa Thompson back to March meeting for update
  
- National Vietnam War Veterans Day Commemoration – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
  - 29 March – Official date, approval of declaration at next week’s council meeting
  - Mayor trying to get Joe Armstrong to speak again this year
  - All in attendance agreed that the actual Day commemoration event in March should be somewhat somber, honorable, informative, and respectful

4. New Business

- Vietnam as theme/focus for 2025 Memorial Day & Veterans Day celebrations
  - We discussed that the best way to honor, commemorate, and educate about the Vietnam war is to have this year’s Memorial Day and Veterans Day observances focus on Vietnam as the theme since it is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and there will likely be much larger attendance/exposure than during the ceremony in March.
  - Discussed that a Vietnam Veterans panel at the city theater would be a great addition to the Veterans Day celebrations this year – the panel discussion could be taped, distributed to schools, etc.
  - **We will reach out to Heart of Biddeford with these ideas**

- Veterans Health Administration Briefing – Rob McCann
  - Rob gave a great briefing on the VA Health System
  - Togus sends out folks twice per month to Portland & Sanford to assist with benefits
  - VHA is collocated with VBA as they are trying to embrace a “one VA culture”
  - Highlights of Togus: women’s clinic, post 9-11 program, a residential rehabilitation treatment program (RRTP) being built with 12 beds initially, 24 in the future with estimated completion Sept 2025, homeless vet program
  - Programs are offered under geriatric and extended care options
  - If you are 70% or more “service connected” you can get care inside veterans homes if you need nursing home level of care
  - All veterans are eligible for hospice on Togus campus
  - VA Maine has two patient advocates: Judith & Brad, extension x5760
  - Online Portal: MyHealtheVet
  - There is currently a backlog on travel reimbursement claims but they are working hard to adjudicate these claims and are making good headway
  
- Maine Bureau of Veterans Services (MBVS) – Gerard Dubois from Springvale office
  - VSO (veteran service officer) job is to connect veterans with their benefits
  - VSOs help not just with paperwork, but explain entire process to help veterans fully understand the system, what they may be entitled to, and how to go about receiving
  - MBVS website has all sorts of information on benefits, park passes, contact info, etc.
  - There are 4000 veterans in the Biddeford zip code area and less than 100 are receiving benefits from the VA – get the word out.
  
- Veteran Resource Fair
  - Rob McCann mentioned that there are outreach teams that can come to Biddeford
  - We discussed how Biddeford could host a veterans resource fair (perhaps around veterans day, in conjunction with the Vietnam Vet panel, etc.?)
  
- AMVETS - Gene Foster (CMC, USN Ret.)
  - AMVETS hosts a breakfast once/month for charity – all proceeds of the last breakfast went to High School seniors for project sunrise (\$1000)
  - All breakfasts are open to the public – next one on March 16 – proceeds will go to Biddeford little league program
  - They have a large meeting hall that can be rented – 207-282-9461

## 6. Next Meeting & Agenda Items

- Monday, 24 Mar 2025 at 4:30pm at City Hall Council Chambers
- Agenda items
  - Bridge naming proposal - update
  - Adopt a Flag proposal – update from Lisa Thompson of Biddeford Recreation
  - Review, final plan for National Vietnam War Veterans Day Commemoration, 29 Mar
  - Proposal to HOB for honoring having Memorial Day/Veterans Day theme - Vietnam

7. Meeting adjourned – 5:46pm