



TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT

Veterans Commission Minutes

Regular Meeting

5:30 PM, October 7, 2026

[Click to View Agenda](#)

Hamden Government
Center
2750 Dixwell Avenue
Hamden, CT 06518
Tel: (203) 287-7070
Fax: (203) 287-7075

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bill Macmullen called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

2. ATTENDANCE

Present:

Chair: Bill Macmullen

Porsche Edmundson, Boards and Commissions Clerk.

Commissioners: Dave Lewis, Mike Doyle, Cal Shepard, Tyrone Mitchell, Barry Elliott, and Jim O'Neil.

Absent: Commissioners Reggie Mayberry, Bill Compton, and Johnnie Best.

A quorum was present.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Commission recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The Commission reviewed the September meeting minutes and corrected the Veterans Awareness Day event date to November 5, 2026.

The Commission made a motion to approve the corrected minutes, which was seconded and approved unanimously.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT / INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

New Commissioner Tyrone Mitchell was introduced and welcomed. We appreciate his continued interest, dedication, and willingness to serve the Hamden Community.

No public comments were received.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioner Dave Lewis reported on a Knights of Columbus-sponsored veterans' visit to the New England Air Museum. The Commission discussed organizing a future visit or collaborating with other veterans' organizations on educational outings.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

8. REPORTS

Community Relations: No formal report was presented.

Student Member Recruitment:

The Commission discussed filling the student representative vacancy after Owen Arenberg left due to age eligibility. Members will explore recruitment through administrators at Hamden High School..

Wreaths Across America:

Mike Doyle agreed to assist with wreath-related activities moving forward. Chairman Macmullen reported discussions with a local Hamden dentist of Korean heritage who expressed an interest in supporting veterans' initiatives and participating in future Veterans Day activities. Members discussed developing a more formal process for community members to sponsor wreaths and get involved in Commission events.

9. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business requiring action.

10. NEW BUSINESS**1. Announcements.****Legislative Council Meeting and Commission Vacancies.**

Chair Macmullen reported on a recent appearance before the Legislative Council regarding vacancies on the Veterans Affairs Commission. Commission representatives expressed concerns about delays in appointments and the impact these vacancies have on the Commission's ability to function effectively.

The Chair also reported learning that commissions may submit periodic written reports to the Legislative Council. It was recommended that the Veterans Affairs Commission begin submitting reports every two months to provide updates on activities, initiatives, and needs.

The Commission further discussed communication issues involving appointments and notifications from various municipal offices. Members welcomed the addition of Tyrone Mitchell and discussed efforts to fill remaining vacancies.

Commission Leadership and Term Planning

Chair Macmullen discussed long-term leadership planning and the importance of mentoring future Commission leaders. Members also discussed health concerns currently affecting Commissioner Reggie Mayberry, who was unable to attend the meeting.

Veterans Awareness Day Planning;

An extensive review was conducted regarding planning for Veterans Awareness Day. Commission members reviewed participant lists, organizational contacts, display requests, and event logistics. Updates were provided regarding numerous organizations, agencies, veteran service groups, military associations, educational institutions, historical organizations, and community partners that have either confirmed participation or are being contacted.

Members noted that planning efforts are entering the final stages and emphasized the importance of obtaining final participation confirmations before the next meeting.

2. HAC Welcome and protocol manual, Cal Shepard.
The Commission discussed updates to the Commission's protocol manual and operating procedures.
3. Office Manning Schedule — W. MacMullen.
Members reviewed the office coverage schedule maintained by the Commission Office.
A concern was raised regarding a resident who had reportedly visited during scheduled office hours and was unable to connect with the Commissioner.
The Commission agreed to update the schedule to remove individuals no longer serving and distribute the schedule to all members.
4. HVC reached out to Whitney Center Veterans — Cal Shepard.
Whitney Center Collaboration
Cal Shepard reported on ongoing discussions with representatives from Whitney Center regarding future collaborations. The Commission discussed potential opportunities to:
 - Hold meetings at Whitney Center;
 - Increase participation among resident veterans;
 - Develop educational programming; and
 - Partner on Veterans Day and Memorial Day activities.Members expressed support for hosting a future Commission meeting at Whitney Center.
5. Term limits.
Commission Leadership and Term Planning
Chair Macmullen discussed long-term leadership planning and the importance of mentoring future Commission leaders. Members also discussed health concerns currently affecting Commissioner Reggie Mayberry, who was unable to attend the meeting.
6. Hamden Veterans Coalition.
The Commission discussed the concept of a Hamden Veterans Coalition that would allow veterans who cannot serve on the Commission due to residency or appointment limitations to participate in discussions and activities. While coalition members would not have voting authority, they could support Commission initiatives and participate in events and planning efforts.
7. Collaboration with Human Rights.
The Commission discussed possible future collaborations with the Hamden Human Rights Commission and community partners.

8. Approved 2027 annual meeting dates: the first Wednesday of every month at 5:30 PM.

January 6th, February 3rd, March 3rd, April 7th, May 5th, June 2nd, July 7, August 4th, September 1st, October 6th, November 3rd, December 1st.

2027 Annual Meeting Dates

The Commission reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for the upcoming year. The first Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM remains the preferred meeting time. Members discussed flexibility regarding meeting locations and agreed that future meetings could be held at community locations when appropriate, provided proper notice is given.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded by Dave Lewis, and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55 PM.

Meeting minutes submitted by: B&C Porsche Edmudnson

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