

MINUTES

LOWELL VETERANS COMMISSION

DATE: Wednesday, 11th February 2026 at 5:00 PM

Location: **Mayor's Reception Room, Lowell City Hall (temporary meeting place as the Lowell Telecommunication Center was flooded due a broken water pipe).**

Meeting:

a. Call to Order: 5:08 PM

b. Pledge of Allegiance

c. Roll Call Attendance

PARADISE, PAUL

GAFFNEY, JAMES III (NOT IN ATTENDANCE)

COTE, RICHARD A.

HARMON, JAMES (NOT IN ATTENDANCE)

PEEPLES, MICHAEL

CEROVAC, ROBERT

GAUTHIER, PHILIAS

PIMENTEL, NAYELI (NOT IN ATTENDANCE)

PEEPLES, JEAN, SUB COMMITTEE MEMBER

ERIC LAMARCHE, DIRECTOR OF VETERANS' SERVICES (NOT IN ATTENDANCE)

Discussion:

1. Upcoming Events:

- a. Chairman Paul Paradise reported the meeting with the Case Office regarding the Veterans Commission's upcoming events will take place after the Winter Fest as the office is busy with that event.

Memorial Day:

- i. Discussion on the Memorial Day Event included that the event would take place at the new Veterans Park in Lowell.
- ii. The date of the Memorial Day Event was discussed with a unanimous agreement that it should take place the weekend before Memorial Day.
- iii. An idea about who will lay the wreath during the event (like the President does at Arlington National Cemetery) was offered that the oldest and youngest Lowell Veteran should have this honor.
 1. Eric Lemarche, Director of Veterans Services may be able to help find out who are the oldest and youngest Lowell Veteran.
 - a. Eric reported via email that he is currently working on the upcoming event.
- iv. Commission member Phil Gauthier was asked and agreed to investigate having the State Police Horse Mounted Honor Guard showcased during the event.
 1. Commission member Gathier suggested acquiring the City of Lowell letterhead to make an official invitation to the State Police Horse Mounted Honor Guard.
- v. A florist to provide the wreath was discussed. The City of Lowell will have the resources to provide the wreath as they have experience in this area according to Chairman Paradise.
- vi. Speakers, someone to sing, and logistics such as porta potty and other essentials will be discussed at a future meeting.

1. The use of the previous Memorial Day spreadsheet information was discussed to be used to help plan the new event.

The 4th of July Parade (250th Anniversary of Our Nation's Independence) Event:

- i. Commission member Michael Peeples updated the Commission that he met with a fellow Veteran at the Bedford VA Clinic who suggested ideas for participation of muscle car owners to chauffeur Veterans during the parade. Vets for Vets was suggested to be contacted, as well as Courtney at the Vets Center of Lowell who has expressed interest in a muscle car show at the Vets Center. Also, the restaurant Kittys hosts muscle car events as well and should be contacted. Commission member Peeples agreed to contact these groups with the approval of the other Commission members.

Veterans Day Event:

- i. Details to be discussed at a future meeting.
2. Chairman Paradise offered an update on the Coats for Veterans Program. The inventory of winter coat packages is running low. The final packages will be distributed to:
 - a. The Bridge Club of Greater Lowell, a beacon of hope and support in the Lowell Community. Ten packages will be delivered.
 - b. The Lowell VA Clinic, VA Boston Health Care, Veterans Affairs office in Lowell will receive ten packages.
 3. Chairman Paradise updated the Commission that a Veteran in need of a medical lift recliner reached out to the Veterans Commission for help. Chairman Paradise is working with the Hidden Battles Foundation, a nonprofit organization that strives to help preserve the healthy minds of active and retired Military/Veterans, Fire Fighters, Law Enforcement, EMS, 911 Dispatch, and Nurses to help this Lowell Veteran in need.
 4. Discussion regarding the Veterans Commission's Gmail Account determined that the Gmail account password is correct, but more investigation on accessing the account is needed and will be looked into.
 5. An update on putting together a Facebook page for the Veterans Commission was offered by Sub Committee member Jean Peeples who asked the Veterans Commission for permission to contact the following organizations and individuals for help, which was met with unanimous approval of the Veterans Commission:
 - a. Contact the Channel 10 News who filmed and showcased on their program last's years Veterans Day Event at the Lowell Memorial Day Auditorium and ask for a clip of the Lowell School Children signing "How Do I Thank a Veteran" to showcase it on the Veterans Commission's Facebook page.
 - b. The City of Lowell also filmed the event and may provide the footage as well, according to Chairman Paradise.
 - c. Contact the City of Lowell Case Office who's has an employee who photographed this (and previous Veterans Commission events) and ask him for pictures to showcase on the Veterans Commission's Facebook page.
 - i. Commission member Gauthier suggested Sub Committee member Peeples take the lead on this project and the suggestion was met with approval of the Veterans Commission.

6. Commission member Peeples updated the Veterans Commission about his efforts to acquire a point of contact at the Lowell VA Clinic and the Boston Veterans Administration to share posting of the Veterans Commission's events.
 - a. A contact at the Lowell VA Clinic is still needed.
 - b. A contact at the Boston Veterans Administration was obtained at the New England Fishing Expo in Marlborough MA. A disabled Veterans Group showcased at the show called Tri-State Disabled Veterans who take disabled Veterans fishing offered the suggestion to contact the Veterans Administration's Recreation Therapy Office as a contact to share events sponsored by the Veterans Commission. Commission member Peeples will reach out to the office.
7. Discussion about the approval of the Veterans Commission's meeting Minutes of 01/14/26, 12/10/25, 11/12/25, 10/8/25, 09/10/25, and 06/11/25 were conducted, and it was disclosed that:
 - a. Commission member Peeples received a point of contact (Haley Williams of the City of Lowell) to forward the Minutes and Agendas to post on City of Lowell's Website on the Internet, as well as the Lowell Telemedia Center. Minutes and Agendas of the Veterans Commission are required to be posted. Unanimous approval of the Minutes was granted by the Veterans Commission and Commission member Peeples agreed to reach out to Haley Williams of the City of Lowell to post past and future meeting Minutes and Agenda.
8. With no further new business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.
9. Move to adjourn.

Adjourned Time: 5.24 pm
 - a. Move –Paradise
 - b. 2nd – All
 - c. Unanimous approval

Regularly scheduled meetings of the Lowell Veterans Commission are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month Lowell TeleMedia Center, 246 Market St, Lowell, MA 01852 starting at 5:00 PM. The following is a list of scheduled meetings: September 10, 2025, October 8, 2025, November 12, 2025, December 10, 2025, January 14, 2026, February 11, 2026, March 11, 2026, April 8, 2026, May 13, 2025⁶ and. June 10, 2026.