

MINUTES

LOWELL VETERANS COMMISSION

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

Location: Mayor's Reception Room, Lowell City Hall

Meeting:

- a. Call to Order: 5:00 PM
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Roll Call Attendance
 - PARADISE, PAUL
 - GAFFNEY, JAMES III
 - COTE, RICHARD A.
 - HARMON, JAMES (not in attendance)
 - PEEPLES, MICHAEL
 - CEROVAC, ROBERT
 - GAUTHIER, PHILIAS (not in attendance)
 - PIMENTEL, NAYELI (not in attendance)
 - PEEPLES, JEAN, SUB COMMITTEE MEMBER
 - ERIC LAMARCHE, DIRECTOR OF VETERANS' SERVICES

Discussion:

1. Veterans Commission member Robert Cerovac was nominated for Vice Chairman. Chairman Paul Paradise mentioned that a vote to elect Robert Cerovac as Vice Chairman will take place at the next meeting April 8, 2026.
2. Secretary Michale Peeples spoke about the Veterans Commission of Lowell seeking letters from Lowell School Children for displays during Veterans Commission Events and to be used for the Veterans Recognition Program. The idea is to tell us about your favorite Veteran and why he or she is your favorite Veteran. Please feel free to attach a photo of your favorite Veteran. They can be any veteran. A family member, friend, or historic figure and the Veterans Commission will honor them.
 - Chairman Paul Paradise mentioned he will reach out to the School Committee for help with this idea and ask for School Committee Members to attend the next meeting of the Veterans Commission April 8, 2026.
3. Upcoming Events:
 - a. **Memorial Day** at the new Veterans Park Lowell 150 Douglas Road, Lowell, MA is scheduled for Friday, May 22, 2026, at 10:00 AM.
 - i. Eric LaMarche, Direct of Veterans Services will reach out to the Gold Star Mother of Lowell to attend and lay a wreath at the Veterans Memorial. The City of Lowell will provide the wreath. He has also contacted ROTC Honor Guard and the Stepping People Team to attend.
 - ii. Chairman Paul Paradise suggested contacting the Scouts of America to attend and assist the Gold Star Mother in the laying of the wreath.
 - iii. Eric Lemarch reported he has been in contact with Home Depot to provide porta potties for the event and has also contacted the City of Lowell for the permits. He also mentioned he will have the instrument available to perform Taps at the event.

- iv. Chairman Paul Paradise is working on having the State Police Horse Mounted Honor Guard showcased during the event.
 - v. Speakers, other organizations for participation in the Veterans Commission events and logistics were discussed included:
 - 1. Pipe and Drum Corporation of New Hampshire.
 - 2. Veterans Vehicle and Hum Vee.
 - 3. Flyer and invites.
 - 4. Veterans Center, VA Hidden Battles, and UMass Lowell to participate.
 - 5. Decorations and bunting.
- 4. **The 4th of July Parade.** Chairman Paul Paradise reported the idea of a 4th of July parade to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of our Nations Independence may not take place. Further discussed was made for an alternative of having muscle car owners to chauffeur Veterans through the streets of Lowell. The event would require street closures and permits. Or, plan B, to have a limo escort Veterans and the Blue Star Mother of Lowell to participate in another City or Town's Parade. More discussion will be made at the next meeting.
- 5. **Veterans Day Event:** No discussions were made during the meeting.
- 6. New Business:
 - a. Facebook page for the Veterans Commission.
 - i. A copy of a preliminary set up for the Veterans Commission Facebook page was reviewed. Chairman Paradise and Eric Lamarch recommended checking with the City of Lowell for use of the City's Website to host the Veterans Commission Events.
- 7. Chairman Paul Paradise reported that Ted Serozynsky, Director of Military and Veterans Services at UMass Lowell reached out to the Veterans Commission for help with Military Flags for display at the University's Military Ball. Chairman Paradise was able to deliver the flags in time for the event. Ted replied in an email:
 - a. Hi Paul and Mike, Appreciate you swinging by with those – thanks!
Mike, thanks (as always!) for all the outreach rustling up the flags (and being willing to pitch in on the logistics)!
Appreciate you both! Best, Ted.
- 8. Chairman Paul Paradise reported that he will be inviting the Bridge Club of Lowell to speak at the next meeting of the Veterans Commission regarding new programs and new a housing facility in Lowell.
- 9. Eric Lamarch reported that the Banner Program is going well with 12 – 15 requests. The deadline has been extended to apply. It is now Monday the 23rd. The Lowell City Council will be hosting a presentation on the 19th at 5:30 PM and the City Council will recognize all participants.
- 10. Eric Lamarch gave an update on the presentation of flags for Veterans throughout the City of Lowell's cemeteries. May 8, 2026, at 10:00 AM at Westlawn Cemetery. May 11, 2026, at 10:00 AM at the Ladd and Whitney Memorial. May 18, 2026, at 10:00 AM Edson Cemetery, and May 22, 2026, at Veterans Park Lowell during the wreath laying event hosted by the Veterans Commission.

11. Chairman Paul Paradise reported that there are a few coat packages available to Veterans in need. The remaining packages will be delivered to the Lowell VA Clinic and the Veterans Center of Lowell.

12. Conclusion:

Move to adjourn.

Adjourned Time: 5:27 PM

- a. Move –Paul Paradise
- b. 2nd – Michael Peeples
- 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.