



Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda/Minutes July 27, 2026

In Attendance	Committee Member	In Attendance	Committee Member
x	Chris Atkins USN		Joe Meehan, USN
x	William Dauphinee USMC	x	Chet Ruminski, USN
x	Barry Kenyon, USN	x	Stacy Spizziri, USA
x	Michael Lewis, USAF	x	Ken Stout, USN
x	Rich Marino, USMC	x	Albert Kaminskas, USA
x	Brian Hagey, PNG	x	Joyce Snyder, BOS Liaison

1. OPENING COMMENTS

- Welcome new members

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Meeting of June 22, 2026

4. OLD BUSINESS

Tennis-Lukens Cemetery Project – Update

Veterans Memorial Park Project – Update

Towamencin 2027 Encampment Celebration Sub-committee

- Kick-off Meeting

2027 Budget Requests

5. NEW BUSINESS

6. NEXT VETERANS COMMITTEE MEETING – August 24, 2026 ???

Towamencin Township Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: July 27, 2026

Location: Towamencin Township Municipal Building

Next Meeting: August 24

Meeting Summary

The Veterans Advisory Committee reviewed progress on several ongoing initiatives, including the Tennis-Lukens Cemetery restoration, Veterans Memorial Park development, planning for the 250th

Anniversary of the Continental Army Encampment in 2027, and the Committee's proposed 2027 budget. Members also discussed improving community outreach through social media and other communication methods to better engage local veterans. The meeting concluded with approval of the Committee's proposed 2027 budget and several assignments for future planning efforts.

Roll Call

Committee members were present with one member absent. The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved without changes. The committee welcomed new member Al Kaminskis.

Old Business

Tennis-Lukens Cemetery Restoration

Discussion

- The new cemetery sign has been installed and received positive feedback.
- Cemetery restoration specialists completed the initial treatment process during the second week of July.
- The temporary orange discoloration from the restoration process is expected to fade over the coming weeks.
- Public Works continues routine maintenance and weed control.
- Landscaping improvements are planned for Spring 2027.
- Restoration work is expected to show significant improvement by September and be fully completed before November.



Additional Discussion

- Future collaboration with an additional cemetery restoration expert was discussed.

The Township continues legal efforts to acquire ownership of another abandoned cemetery [Methodist Episcopal near the Holiday Inn](#) before restoration work can begin.



Takeaways

- Tennis-Lukens Cemetery restoration remains on schedule.
- Maintenance will continue until final restoration is complete.
- Future cemetery restoration opportunities remain under consideration.

Veterans Memorial Park Project

Discussion

- Easement agreements have been secured for the future access driveway.
- The adjacent property owner has agreed to permit stormwater management on their property.
- Two grant applications have been submitted.
- Grant decisions are anticipated during September or October.

- The previously discussed land swap proposal has been abandoned.
- Preliminary engineering work has advanced significantly.
- If grant funding is awarded, construction could begin during 2027.

Takeaways

- The project continues to make steady progress.
- Grant funding remains the primary milestone before construction begins.
- Committee members expressed optimism that work could start next year.

Veterans Advisory Committee Social Media (Facebook)

Discussion

Members discussed creating a Facebook presence to improve public awareness of committee activities.

Topics included:

- Whether the page should be affiliated with the Township or independently managed.
- Administrative responsibilities.
- Managing comments and preventing inappropriate content.
- Using automation and multiple administrators.
- Posting committee events and veteran-related information.

Several members shared experiences managing larger Facebook groups and recommended disabling public comments, if necessary.

Takeaways

- No final decision was made.
- Brian volunteered to further investigate the idea and report back at a future meeting.

250th Anniversary Continental Army Encampment (2027)

Discussion

Planning officially began for commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Continental Army Encampment.

The committee:

- Formed an initial planning subcommittee.
- Discussed potential committee members and community partners.
- Agreed that Katie Cleary and Molly Jobson should be included in future planning.
- Anticipated holding regular planning meetings, likely on Thursdays.
- Discussed historical marker dedication requirements and expected participation from numerous elected officials and representatives.

Initial Planning Committee

- Chris Atkins
- Bill Dauphinee
- Barry Kenyon
- Brian Hagey
- Chet Ruminski
- Stacy Spizziri

Takeaways

- Planning efforts are officially underway.
- Additional members and community partners will be invited during future meetings.

2027 Budget Request

Discussion

The committee reviewed and discussed the proposed 2027 operating budget, including funding for:

- Veterans' Social events
- Historical Speaker Series
- 250th Anniversary Encampment
- Morgan Log House partnership activities
- Committee brochure and promotional materials
- Advertising and public outreach

Committee members discussed increasing funding for the encampment based on recent America250 event costs.

The proposed total budget request was finalized at **\$25,000**.

Motion

The committee unanimously approved submitting the proposed \$25,000 budget request to Township officials.

Takeaways

- Budget request approved.
- Members were encouraged to attend the Township budget presentation when scheduled.

New Business

Veterans Event Promotion and Outreach

Discussion

Members discussed additional methods for reaching veterans throughout the Township.

Suggestions included:

- Expanding event advertising.
- Increasing social media presence.
- Posting additional flyers and banners.
- Utilizing Township newsletters and email blasts.
- Exploring electronic signage opportunities.
- Identifying better methods to reach younger veterans and families.

Committee members acknowledged that many veterans are unaware of Township events because they are not subscribed to Township communications.

Takeaways

- Improving outreach remains a priority.
- Additional communication strategies will continue to be explored.

Upcoming Events

Members announced several upcoming events:

- **Veterans Day Ceremony**
 - November 11
 - 11:00 AM
 - Tennis-Lukens Cemetery
- **American Legion Post 933 80th Anniversary**
 - October 3
 - Beef & Beer fundraiser
 - 1:00–5:00 PM
- **Committee Budget Presentation**
 - Township budget meetings anticipated in September or October.

Action Summary	
Action Item	Responsible Party
Continue Tennis-Lukens Cemetery restoration and maintenance	Public Works
Continue legal process for acquisition of abandoned cemetery	Township Staff
Await grant decisions for Veterans Memorial Park	Township Staff
Begin planning meetings for 250th Anniversary Encampment	Encampment Subcommittee
Invite additional planning partners (Katie Cleary, Molly Jobson, others)	Encampment Subcommittee
Research and develop proposal for Veterans Advisory Committee Facebook page	Brian Hagey
Members to submit brochure content and photographs to Chet for drafting new version	All Committee Members
Chet to assist with brochure layout and design	Chet Ruminski
Submit approved \$25,000 budget request to Township	Bill Dauphinee

Action Item**Responsible Party**

Notify committee members of Township budget presentation date

Township Staff

Continue exploring additional veteran outreach and promotional methods

Veterans Advisory
Committee

Minutes