



Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda/Minutes June 22, 2026

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

1. OPENING COMMENTS

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Meeting of May 18, 2026

4. OLD BUSINESS

Events

- (De-brief) Memorial Day
- (Debrief) Towamencin Day
- General Nash Gravesite Ceremony - June 25, 2026 3:45 PM At Towamencin Mennonite Church Cemetery
- Semi quincentennial Celebration June 25, 2026 5:30 PM Fischer's Park

Tennis-Lukens Cemetery Project – Update

Veterans Memorial Park Project – Update

America 250 Township Committee – Looking for more volunteers to help at event

Towamencin 2027 Encampment Celebration Sub-committee

- Kick-off Meeting

5. NEW BUSINESS

6. NEXT VETERANS COMMITTEE MEETING – July 27, 2026

Meeting Summary

The Towamencin Township Veterans Advisory Committee met to review ongoing projects, including the Tennis-Lukens Cemetery restoration and Veterans Memorial Park development. Members discussed preparations for the America 250 celebration and General Nash ceremony, reviewed recent Memorial Day and Towamencin Day activities, considered environmental and landscaping recommendations for Veterans Memorial Park, and began planning for the 2027 Encampment Commemoration. Budget planning, volunteer recruitment, and sponsorship opportunities were also discussed.

Committee Business

Chris Atkins was recognized following his appointment to the committee. Members noted that several committee vacancies remain and encouraged interested residents to apply. The May meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

Takeaway: Committee membership is growing, but additional volunteers and committee members are still needed.

Public Comment – Environmental Considerations

A Bird Town representative, Bruce Baily, encouraged the committee to incorporate native plantings and wildlife-friendly landscaping into Veterans Memorial Park. Discussion focused on creating habitats that support birds, pollinators, and native species while preserving the memorial character of the site.

Members expressed support for consulting with environmental organizations and the Environmental Advisory Council during future design phases.

Takeaway: Environmental stewardship and native landscaping should be considered during future park design activities.

Tennis-Lukens Cemetery Project

Members received an update on restoration work. Headstones have been reset and stabilized, and contractors are expected to return in July to complete cleaning and preservation activities. A new cemetery sign is expected to arrive and be installed during July.

The committee also discussed progress on legal and engineering matters associated with access to Veterans Memorial Park. Township representatives reported continued advancement on easement and engineering planning efforts.

Takeaway: Cemetery restoration remains on schedule and park access planning continues to move forward.

Memorial Day and Towamencin Day Review

Committee members reviewed recent Memorial Day activities, including Taps Across America. Participants considered the event successful and discussed minor improvements for future ceremonies.

Towamencin Day activities were also reviewed. Attendance was affected somewhat by weather conditions, but the Veterans Committee display was well received. Members discussed improvements for future displays and methods for securing flags during windy weather.

Takeaway: Both events were successful and provided valuable lessons for future planning.

General Nash Ceremony

Final preparations were discussed for the upcoming General Nash gravesite ceremony. Committee members were encouraged to attend and support the event. The ceremony will include historical presentations, wreath presentations, and ceremonial honors.

Takeaway: Committee participation will help strengthen township support for local Revolutionary War history.

America 250 Celebration Planning

The committee reviewed final logistics for the township's America 250 celebration. More than thirty historical organizations are expected to participate. Activities will include historical displays, reenactments, demonstrations, music, family activities, and educational programs.

Committee members reviewed volunteer staffing, display layouts, service flags, parking considerations, and opening ceremony participation. Coordination with ROTC units and historical organizations continues.

Takeaway: The America 250 celebration represents one of the township's largest historical programs and will require significant volunteer support.

Veterans Memorial Park Project

Township representatives provided an update on grant applications and engineering efforts associated with Veterans Memorial Park. Current priorities include access roads, parking, site preparation, and infrastructure improvements necessary for future development.

Members discussed future collaboration with environmental groups regarding landscaping and plant selection. The committee expects its primary focus to remain on memorial features, service displays, pathways, ceremonial spaces, and amphitheater development.

Takeaway: Engineering, access, and grant funding remain the immediate priorities for project advancement.

2027 Encampment Commemoration

The committee began discussing plans for commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Continental Army encampment in the township. Members discussed creating a speaker series to educate residents about Revolutionary War history and partnering with the Morgan Log House to coordinate programming.

The committee also discussed securing Revolutionary War reenactors and other living-history participants. Because of strong demand for reenactment groups throughout the region, early planning will be necessary.

A dedicated subcommittee will be formed to guide planning efforts.

Takeaway: Planning for the 2027 Encampment Commemoration is underway and will become a major focus during the coming year.

Budget Planning

Members discussed future budget requirements associated with annual committee activities, speaker programs, and the 2027 Encampment Commemoration. Preliminary estimates ranged between \$20,000 and \$25,000, although additional cost information will be gathered before formal recommendations are made.

Potential sponsorship opportunities involving local businesses were discussed. Committee members also agreed to obtain budget information from neighboring municipalities that have hosted similar historical events.

Takeaway: Additional research and cost estimates are needed before final budget requests are submitted.

Action Items

- Coordinate July return of cemetery restoration contractors and installation of new cemetery sign.
- Continue grant applications and engineering efforts for Veterans Memorial Park access improvements.
- Finalize volunteer assignments and display logistics for the America 250 celebration.

- Coordinate participation in the General Nash ceremony.
- Develop a framework for the 2027 Encampment Commemoration Subcommittee.
- Gather budget and planning information from neighboring municipalities.
- Prepare preliminary speaker series and encampment budget estimates.
- Continue recruiting residents to fill committee vacancies.

Next Meeting

July 27, 2026 7:00PM

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned following a motion.