



Veterans Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda
April 28, 2025

In Attendance	Committee Member	In Attendance	Committee Member
x	Gordon Bell, USCG	x	Rich Marino USMC
x	William Dauphinee USMC	x	Joe Meehan, USN
x	Robert Dell, USCG	x	Chet Ruminski, USN
	Barry Forgeng, USMC		Laureen Sendel-Grant, USA
x	Barry Kenyon, USN	x	Stacy Spizziri, USA
	Carter LeBrocq, USA	x	Joyce Snyder, BOS Liaison
x	Michael Lewis , USAF		

Overall Meeting Summary

The Veterans Committee convened to discuss key updates and planning efforts related to the Veterans Memorial Park, upcoming cemetery restoration projects, social events, and related fundraising and engineering initiatives. A major focus was securing funding and partnerships for park development ahead of the 250th anniversary of George Washington's 1777 encampment. Presentations were also delivered by a local preservation group seeking approval to restore the Tennis Lukens Cemetery through crowdfunding. Additional topics included the Towamencin Day event, social planning for spring 2025, and ongoing grant application efforts.

1. Veterans Memorial Park Development with PDSC

- Key Discussion Points with Mr. Mark Nicoletti :
 - Reviewed Park history, including land acquisition in 2007, dedication in 2018, and master plan adoption in 2020.
 - Original design and engineering cost: ~\$247,000; updated estimate: ~\$300,000–\$325,000.
 - Township has budgeted \$100,000 for 2025 for design and engineering work.
 - Five-phase plan from Simone Collins; focus on beginning with phases A–C Earth work, site grading, reforestation. Phases D & E, Parking, Entrance Plaza, Restroom, Walkways, Amphitheater construction.
 - Goal to show visible progress by 2027 for the 250th anniversary of Washington's encampment in the area.
- Takeaways:
 - Engineering must proceed before applying for major construction grants.
 - Township funding is committed; state and county funding are needed to close the gap.
 - State Senator to be approached for help with cost with discretionary funds.
 - Land access and parking remain key concerns; a land swap proposal is underway but faces open space restrictions.

2. Fundraising and Grant Strategy

- Key Discussion Points:
 - Discussion with the Nicoletti family trust about potential financial contribution.
 - Emphasis on securing a private matching contribution to strengthen state and county grant proposals.
 - Plans to pursue DCNR, DCED, and other grants with deadlines approaching.
 - Noted the potential requirement for private matching funds by state programs.
- Takeaways:
 - Nicoletti family to explore committing half the engineering cost however cost must be finalized.
 - Grant timelines are tight; immediate preparation is needed.
 - Exploring pro bono or reduced-rate services from engineering firms is recommended.

3. Tennis-Lukens Cemetery Restoration Proposal

- Key Discussion Points:
 - Lifelines Preservation Services presented a \$6,000 crowd-funding initiative to clean and reset 80+ gravestones.
 - Plan includes D2 biological cleaning, realignment/resetting of 44 gravestones, and a final report on Veterans Day 2025.
 - Township has already submitted a grant application that includes gravestone restoration by other vendors.
 - Discussion of similar future work at the Methodist Episcopal Cemetery.
- Takeaways:
 - Committee expressed interest in possible collaboration with Lifelines Preservation Services on the Methodist cemetery instead.
 - Township to evaluate how crowd-funding aligns with existing grant submissions.
 - Additional proposals welcome for other cemetery projects as funding for Tennis-Lukens is underway.

4. Spring 2025 Social Event for Veterans

- Key Discussion Points:
 - Ongoing search for a venue after firehouse denied requests.
 - Consensus on hosting the event on a Friday night at 6 PM.
 - Mainland Golf Course Pavilion identified as a strong candidate.
- Takeaways:
 - Event remains on track for spring.
 - Venue confirmation is the next key step.
 - Budget of \$7,000 available to support event logistics.

5. Towamencin Day Event (May 10)

- Key Discussion Points:
 - Final preparations underway; checklist reviewed.
 - Main outstanding item: updated tri-fold promotional flyer.
 - Committee working on obtaining and potentially recreating digital version.
 - Discussed revising flyer text to better reflect committee capabilities.
- Takeaways:
 - Print materials must be finalized soon.
 - Committee to avoid overpromising support services beyond its scope.
 - Backup physical flyers available; additional printing may be required.
 - Tri-fold soft copy has been updated and ready for print.

6. Engineering Proposal Process

- Key Discussion Points:
 - Committee discussed issuing an RFP for engineering services.
 - Suggestion to include township engineer, Bowler, and other firms in bid process.
 - Need for an updated scope of work reflecting access/parking changes.
- Takeaways:
 - RFP drafting to begin; Peter Simone may assist in scope development.
 - Township engineers to be included in proposal requests.
 - Early action is crucial to meet 2027 construction target.

7. Revolutionary War History Collaboration

- Key Discussion Points:
 - Interest in collaborating with the Museum of the American Revolution Philadelphia and regional historical societies.
 - Potential to enhance fundraising and visibility by linking park to 250th anniversary of Washington's Encampment in Towamencin.
- Takeaways:
 - Leverage Revolutionary War history to attract broader support.
 - Consider long-term outreach to schools and heritage institutions.

Action Items

1. Veterans Memorial Park Engineering

- Finalize updated scope of work to include new access and parking layout.
- Solicit bids from at least three civil engineering firms (including township engineer and Bowler).
- Begin drafting RFP once scope is finalized.

- Confirm whether Peter Simone intends to lead or subcontract the engineering work.
- 2. Funding and Grant Applications**
 - Nicoletti family trust to confirm potential commitment for 50% of design/engineering costs.
 - Township to follow up with state senator and county officials regarding matching contributions.
 - Submit applications for DCNR and DCED grants; confirm relevant deadlines.
 - Explore additional funding sources including Montgomery County, private donors, and historical institutions.
- 3. Cemetery Restoration**
 - Paul and Rick to potentially submit new proposal for Methodist Episcopal Cemetery.
 - Township to evaluate coordination with existing Tennis Lukens Cemetery grant applications.
 - Determine which preservation project(s) will proceed based on approvals and funding alignment.
- 4. Spring 2025 Veterans Social Event**
 - Secure venue (priority: Mainland Golf Course Pavilion).
 - Set event date (target: Friday evening).
 - Confirm venue costs and secure booking using committee budget.
- 5. Towamencin Day Preparation (May 10)**
 - Obtain or recreate the digital version of the tri-fold flyer.
 - Edit flyer language to remove unsupported service claims.
 - Distribute and print final version in time for event.
- 6. Revolutionary War Commemoration Planning**
 - Research possible partnerships with Museum of the American Revolution and historical societies.
 - Begin outreach planning to schools and educational groups for future site engagement.
- 7. Further updates expected on fundraising, engineering proposals, and event planning.**

COME EARLY (6:50 PM) TO THE TOWNSHIP MEETING HALL.
AS A GROUP WE WILL WALK, USING THE INTERNAL CONNECTING HALLWAY, TO
THE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR, CONFERENCE ROOM.

AT 7:00 PM SHARP WE WILL HAVE A VIDEO (ZOOM) DISCUSSION WITH MARK
NICOLETTI ABOUT HIS INTEREST IN PROVIDING FUNDING TOWARDS VETERANS
MEMORIAL PARK

**FOLLOWING THE VIDEO DISCUSSION, WE WILL RETURN TO THE MEETING HALL FOR OUR
REGULAR VETERANS COMMITTEE MEETING.**

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL

3. OPENING COMMENTS

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Meeting of March 24, 2025

6. OLD BUSINESS

Planning for Future Events for Veterans

- Veterans Social for spring 2025
- Towamencin Day 2025 – May 10, 2025 -Refer to Planning Checklist

Update on Status of Work to be performed at Tennis-Lukens Cemetery

- Progress on Grant Application

Engineering Plans for Veterans Memorial Park Development

- Initiate proposals for engineering plans
- M. Nicoletti interested in helping financially?

America 250 Township Committee

- Report from Carter LeBrocq - The Veterans Committee representative

Towamencin 2027 Encampment Celebration Sub-committee - 100% Veterans Committee

- Sub-committee report
- Brian Hagey and Victor Borbeck presentation at April 23, 2025 Meeting to BOS

7. NEW BUSINESS

Presentation on Gravestone Restoration

8. NEXT VETERANS COMMITTEE MEETING – May 19, 2025