



Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda/Minutes August 24, 2026

In Attendance	Committee Member	In Attendance	Committee Member
x	Chris Atkins USN	x	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	Al Kaminkas, USA
x	Brian Hagey PAANG	x	Joyce Snyder, BOS Liaison

1. OPENING COMMENTS

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Meeting of July 27, 2026

4. OLD BUSINESS

Towamencin 2027 Encampment Celebration (Discussion with Katie Cleary and Molly Jobson)

- Establish a kick-off meeting date, and regular scheduled meeting dates
- Other recommended sub-committee member suggestions

Tennis-Lukens Cemetery Project – Update

ME Cemetery acquisition - Update

Veterans Memorial Park Project – Update

2027 Budget Request Presentation to BOS

Social Media Outreach (Facebook)

Veterans Event Promotion and Outreach strategies

Trifold Revisions

Veterans Day Ceremony - **November 11, 2026 - 11:00 AM** at Tennis-Lukens Cemetery

American Legion Post 933 80th Anniversary - **October 3, 2026 - Beef & Beer fundraiser - 1:00–5:00 PM**

5. NEW BUSINESS

6. NEXT VETERANS COMMITTEE MEETING – September 28, 2026

Towamencin Township Veterans Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES — AUGUST 24, 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Towamencin Township Veterans Advisory Committee met to review ongoing township initiatives, finalize outreach strategies, and advance planning for major upcoming events. Key discussions focused on establishing a subcommittee kickoff meeting for the 2027 America 250 Continental Encampment, receiving progress updates on local cemetery and park developments, approving committee trifold brochure revisions, and coordinating logistics for the upcoming Veterans Day ceremony and township fall newsletter.

1. Call to Order, Pledge, & Attendance

Details: The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call. Committee members in attendance included William Dauphinee, Barry Kenyon, Michael Lewis, Rich Marino, Brian Hagey, Joe Meehan, Chet Ruminski, Stacy Spizziri, Ken Stout, Al Kaminskis, and Joyce Snyder.

Takeaways: Quorum was met, and special guests Katie Cleary of Towamencin Special Events and Molly Jobson of Morgan Log House were welcomed early in the agenda.

2. Approval of Prior Minutes

Details: Minutes from the July 27, 2026 meeting were reviewed.

Takeaways: A motion to approve the July 27 minutes was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. Minutes forward to Michelle Sepulveda for posting on the township's website.

3. Encampment Subcommittee

Details: Guest speakers Katie Cleary and Molly Jobson joined to discuss initial coordination for the America 250 event planned for October 2027. The committee evaluated potential event formats (a one-day event vs. an overnight encampment at Fischer's Park), site logistics (restrooms, wood/straw supplies, parking, and school district clearance for overnight vehicles), possible reenactor fees, and community liaison outreach.

Takeaways:

- A dedicated kickoff meeting was set for **Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at 7:00 PM** in the township conference room.
- Outreach will be extended to local historical groups, including Holly Haig (DAR), Frank DiMaria (Hatfield Historical Committee), Vic Verbeke (Lower Salford), Don Earnsberg (Irish Volunteers), and Sons of the American Revolution representatives.
- Organizers will gather scheduling and budget intel from Pennypacker Mills and Brandywine events.

4. Township Historic & Veteran Site Updates

Details:

- **Tennis-Lukens Cemetery:** Restoration work is ongoing and expected to wrap up by late September or October 2026 as cooler temperatures arrive.
- **Methodist-Episcopal Cemetery (Behind Holiday Inn):** The abandoned property containing Civil War veteran graves is currently being maintained (mowed/trimmed) by Township Public Works. The township solicitor and board are pursuing eminent domain to take ownership over the next 18 months, which will open up future grant opportunities.

- **Veterans Memorial Park:** Awaiting word on outstanding state grant applications (expected early-to-mid fall) to fund engineering work and an initial loop path/driveway access.

Takeaways: Site maintenance and legal/grant acquisition processes are progressing as scheduled.

5. Budget Request Presentation

Details: The committee reviewed its upcoming \$25,000 budget request presentation scheduled before the Board of Supervisors on **October 7, 2026**.

Takeaways: Preparation of the PowerPoint presentation is underway; the requested amount remains \$25,000.

6. Veterans Promotion, Social Media & Outreach Strategies

Details: The committee addressed methods to engage younger veterans and families, including leveraging township social media, physical flyers/banners, email notifications via township eNews, and placing meeting dates on the back of Board of Supervisors agendas and park kiosks.

Takeaways: Rich will establish official Facebook and Instagram pages for the Veterans Advisory Committee to boost event visibility and engagement.

7. Committee Trifold Brochure Revisions

Details: The draft brochure prepared by Chet was reviewed. Modifications were agreed upon to include a direct contact email (info@towamencin.org), minor date references under 2027 encampment, and a working QR code pointing to the township veteran's page.

Takeaways:

- Printing will be coordinated with Lisa at the North Montco Technical Career Center for a run of 250–500 copies on heavy stock paper. Chet work with Lisa.
- Molly Jobson to provide Lisa's email address to Chet.

8. Veterans Day Ceremony Planning

Details: Planning commenced for the upcoming Veterans Day ceremony November 11, 11AM. The committee noted the need to purchase a new USA-made cotton Betsy Ross flag for the ceremony.

Takeaways:

- The Master of Ceremonies and committee leadership will collaborate to formalize and rehearse the ceremony sequence of events and flag-changing protocol.
- Local veteran tributes will be evaluated for future Memorial Day ceremonies.

9. Community Events & New Business

Details:

- **Hatfield American Legion Post 933:** Hosting an 80th Anniversary Beef & Beer fundraiser on October 3, 2026, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM.
- **Fall Township Newsletter:** Template submitted by Michelle; content and photos are due by Friday, August 28, 2026.

Takeaways: Historical photo archives maintained by Chet and other committee members since 2018 will be transferred to Michelle at the Township to ensure they are consolidated and preserved in a single location.

Action Item Summary

Assignee	Action Items
Chet	- Establish the committee's Facebook and Instagram pages and provide handles for inclusion in the brochure. - Finalize the trifold brochure text with updated social media links, email contact (info@towamencin.org), and general 2027 event wording. - Reach out to Lisa at the Tech School for brochure printing quotes/options. - Transfer committee historical photo archives to Michelle at the Township. - Send Rich a photo for the upcoming newsletter.
Brian	Reach out to Frank DiMaria (Hatfield) and DAR/SAR representatives regarding the September 2 kickoff meeting.
Katie / Molly	- Contact Pennypacker Mills and Brandywine to gather 2027 Revolutionary War event schedule intel. - Pull together potential reenactor lists/contacts for the September 2 kickoff meeting. - Provide contact of North Montco graphic arts department.
All Committee Members	- Attend the GW Encampment Kickoff Meeting on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at 7:00 PM. - Attend the next regular committee meeting on Monday, September 28, 2026.