

A meeting of the Mayor's Veterans Counsel was held on Monday, September 8, 2025 in Room 208 at City Hall.

Members Present: L. Chipola (Chairman); J. York; S. Ordway; D. Cotrau; Mayor Donchess

Also present was E. Vassar

The meeting was called to order at 1358/1:58 PM; the agenda did not identify any items requiring a vote.

Chairman L. Chipola started the meeting by reviewing the 4th of July ceremony. All agreed it went well.

The next item for discussion was the upcoming 9/11 memorial ceremony at the firehouse on West Hollis Street. Mayor Donchess confirmed he would be attending and providing remarks. The agenda for the ceremony was reviewed, including organizational details to be addressed prior to the ceremony.

The next parade committee meeting is the 29th of September, where the Veterans Day parade will be organized. Chairman Chipola asked if any new parties had contacted the parade committee requesting to participate. J. York stated that a little league organization had reached out, and the 39th Army Band has also expressed their desire to participate in Nashua parades going forward.

J. York mentioned that with the Renaissance Park renovations, the monument locations often used as sites for memorial ceremonies may not be available for Pearl Harbor Day and other patriotic holidays. Mayor Donchess advised that it will actually likely be available for Pearl Harbor Day (December 7), as construction is likely to pause for the winter by the end of November. Availability will be reassessed closer to the date. If it is not available, Crown Linens will be contacted to ask permission to use the riverbank of their property, as was done last year.

Chairman Chipola asked the council members if anyone had any general input to offer. He brought up a flag retirement ceremony that the VFW was asked to conduct on 9/7 at Mike Buckley's Lost Cowboy Brewery. It was a very moving and meaningful event attended by approximately 400 people.

Chairman Chipola mentioned his observation that overgrown brush and graffiti was being cleaned up by the DPW at the Veterans Memorial Parkway. The prevalence of graffiti was discussed further, as the Legion is also dealing with the same issue. Mayor Donchess advised he was reaching out to Dir. Fauteux as they spoke in order to coordinate removal of the graffiti.

Chairman Chipola mentioned he had received an email from the contractor that provides the veteran banners for the Memorial Parkway, as the current banners will be retired soon and new ones will go up. The banner program displays veteran portraits with service details along the length of the Parkway in two-year intervals.

The Chairman asked if there was anything else the members wished to discuss. All council business items were covered.

Mayor Donchess informed the committee that he received communication back from Dir. Fauteux regarding the graffiti at the American Legion: she advised that she would have a crew take care of it.

The meeting was adjourned at 1419 hours/2:19 PM.

The next meeting of the Mayor's Veterans Council will be held November 10, 2025 at 1400/2:00 PM in Conference Room 208 of City Hall, 229 Main St.