

**Minutes
Veterans Service Commission
OF NORTH BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT**

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

**Edward Smith Library
6:30 p.m.**

Chair Poston called the meeting to order at 6:07pm

1. Salute to the Flag

The meeting was called to order and the Commission saluted the flag.

2. Roll Call:

Present: Chair Zakary Poston, Vice-Chair Hamlet Hernandez, Member Tony Catapano, Member Charles Larkins, Member-Alternate Victoria Caroline, Member-Alternate Edward Donadio and Alternate Robert Viglione

Also Present: Alternate Robert Viglione's family and Eileen Donadio

Absent: Member Dan Camp

It was stated for the record that **Victoria will seated as a regular member for purposes of voting** at this meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes

Member Larkin made a motion to approve the minutes from November 5, meeting, motion seconded by Vice-Chair Hernandez.

All in favor

Abstain: Member Viglione and Member Donadio

Vote: Motion carried; two members abstained.

4. Update from the Chair

The Chair wished members a happy New Year and noted the holiday break.

There was limited activity since the previous meeting due to the holidays.

The Chair reported discussions with Rose regarding ongoing matters and the departure of Michael. It was noted that **Rory Brooke is serving as Acting Town Manager**.

A meeting will be scheduled with Mayor Angeloni and Acting Town Manager Rory Brooke to review ongoing projects, approvals, and next steps to ensure continuity and momentum.

Members were encouraged to share any additional items they feel should be discussed at that meeting.

5. Old Business – Discussion & Action

a. Wall of Honor – Subcommittee

The subcommittee reported that no formal meeting had occurred due to the holidays. Discussion included timelines, approvals, renderings, and coordination with town administration. Members discussed ensuring approvals and purchase orders are completed in advance to avoid delays.

b. Nomination Form for the Hall of Honor – Subcommittee

The Commission discussed progress on the nomination form and the original timeline. It was noted that the nomination submission period had been delayed due to administrative transitions.

A proposal was discussed to establish an **inaugural Hall of Honor class consisting of historical veterans**, allowing the Commission to proceed while finalizing the public nomination process. This approach would allow for a “soft launch” in 2026, with public nominations opening the following year.

A tentative timeline was discussed, including:

- March: finalize materials and criteria
- April–May: review and select inaugural honorees
- June: outreach to families and confirmations
- July–October: planning, production, and installation

The importance of coordinating funding, approvals, and purchase orders prior to July 1 was emphasized.

The Commission discussed outreach to the **Historical Society**, including inviting a representative to a future meeting to provide historical guidance and recommendations on potential honorees.

6. New Business – Discussion & Action

a. Letter to Veterans

The Commission discussed sending a letter to local veterans. It was agreed that the letter should focus on general information and historical dates, without referencing the Hall of Honor until preparations are complete.

Discussion included:

- Mailing logistics and costs
- Use of town resources for printing and mailing
- Inclusion of information such as parking passes for community events

Staff will revise the letter and circulate a draft to the Commission for review.

7. Citizens' Statements, Petitions, and Correspondence

None.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.