



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

April 15, 2014

REPORT OF THE VETERANS AND PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Matthew McLaughlin	Chair	Present	
Dennis M. Sullivan	Vice Chair	Present	
Mary Jo Rossetti	Alderman at Large	Present	

Others present: Jay Weaver

Approval of the Minutes of July 02, 2013

195831 - That the Dedication Committee name the corner of Tremont Street and Webster Avenue in memory of Vietnam War veteran Arthur J. Downey.:

A petition for information was sent to the family that requested the dedication..

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

196154 - That the Dedication Committee update this Board on the park dedication in honor of Joseph Mackey.:

The Dedications Commission has no progress to report on this matter, because it was never asked to take any action. Also, Foss and Draw Seven Parks are both DCR facilities, owned and operated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the Dedications Commission has no authority to approve dedications on state property. The committee would like a response from the Mayor's office.

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

196381 - That the Director of Veterans Services appear before this Board's Committee on Veterans and Public Services to discuss street corner dedications and how the committee may help on veteran's issues.:

Mr. Weaver requested that all dedications be sent to his office. The city's Code of Ordinances has standards requiring that there must be a substantial contribution to the nation or commonwealth made in time of war. The Dedication Commission currently has 3 members,

which is 3 members less than stipulated in the Code of Ordinance. The committee also discussed redesigning dedication signs.

RESULT:

WORK COMPLETED

196391 - The Commission on Monuments, Memorials, and Dedications responding to #196154 re: a Park Dedication for Joseph Mackey.:

See item 196154, above.

RESULT:

WORK COMPLETED

196598 - Director of Veterans Services responding to #196381 re: attending a Veterans and Public Services Committee meeting.:

RESULT:

WORK COMPLETED

- **Relocation of the Vietnam Veteran's memorial**

The memorial is difficult to see in its current location and relocating it would be costly.

- **2014 Memorial Day Parade**

Mr. Weaver reported that more quality volunteers are needed for the parade. A list of participants for 2013 and 2014 was distributed and Mr. Weaver indicated that the parade may be smaller this year. There was a discussion about a potential Grand Marshall.

- **Valor Act**

Alderman Rossetti asked about the Valor Act and provided a copy of a related document. A discussion followed regarding a requirement for Veteran Service Officers to be certified by the state. The act may have some unfunded mandates, therefore, Alderman Rossetti requested that Paragraph 3 of the Valor Act II, be reviewed by the Finance Committee.