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**BRANFORD**  
**VETERANS PARADE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**Branford Community Center**

**Date/Time: October 2, 2024 – 4:30 P.M.**

- **Call to Order** - In attendance were Alex Palluzzi, Jr., John Fitzgerald (Chairman), Dennis Flanigan, Elliott Hastings, Donald Langlois, William O'Brien, Philip Zielinski.
- **Parade Marshal**- There were two proposals for parade marshal. Ray Ingraham identified Babe Giordano as one possibility. The other possibility was Joe Dendas. The committee was awaiting additional information on both candidates and then would vote on a marshal.
- **Emcee**- Vinny Giordano will serve as emcee for this year's event on the green.
- **Bugle status**- The new electronic bugle was ordered and received by Alex Paluzzi and will be used at the cemeteries and during the ceremony on the Branford Green to play Taps. Steve Vacca who traditionally played Taps is unable to participate in this year's Veteran Day activities.
- **Invocation/Benediction**- Pastor Steve Chamberlain will be asked to provide the invocation and Rayzl Feuer will give the Benediction.
- **Parade permit status** – John Fitzgerald reported that he has submitted the permit for the parade to the State DOT. The state has received the application. The committee is awaiting approval.
- **Sound system**: The committee discussed the difficulty some attendees had hearing the ceremony on the Green (particularly those back beyond the flagpole near Town Hall and Trinity Episcopal Church). Alex Palluzzi will discuss with Dennis Nardella (who provides the sound system) about providing an additional speaker.
- **Update on marching units/booklet review** – Several groups have responded affirmatively but the chairman will send out another email the week of 7 October 2024 to ascertain attendance. Since there has been a change in band directors, Alex Palluzzi will reach out to Mike Martone at BHS to ensure the Band can play at the naval wreath ceremony on the Montowese bridge, perform at the ceremony on the Branford Green and march in the parade.

- **Vehicles:** Alex Palluzzi and Phil Zielinski will coordinate a van and driver for the ceremony visit on November 10, 2024.
- **Essay contest** – Bill O’Brien has confirmed that Sen. Christine Cohen will spearhead the essay contest.
- **Cemetery wreath laying:** start time on November 10 will be 9:00 am.
- **Status of BHS gym as backup in the event of foul weather** – Dennis Flanigan will reserve the high school gym as the backup in case of bad weather.
- **Outreach:** Elliott Hastings and Don Langlois were asked to reach out to other veterans organizations in towns surrounding Branford to see if any veterans would like to march since most towns do not have a Veteran’s Day parade.
- **Next meeting** will take place on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 @ 4:30 P.M.
- **Adjournment** – 5:30 P.M.

Submitted by: John Fitzgerald 10/7/2024  
 John Fitzgerald, Chairman

