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BRANFORD
VETERANS PARADE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Branford Community Center

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

- **Call to Order** - In attendance were Alex Palluzzi, Jr., John Fitzgerald (Chairman), Dennis Flanigan, Elliott Hastings, Donald Langlois, Philip Zielinski, Harvey Goldstein and Ed Masotta.
- **Parade Marshal**- Joe Dendas confirmed his acceptance and was briefed by the chairman on speech parameters (5-7 minutes in length and a topic appropriate for Veterans Day focused on families in attendance.)
- **Update on marching units/booklet review** – The committee reviewed/edited the entire ceremony program with most current updates. Harvey Goldstein will have a final draft of the booklet completed by Thursday, November 7, so Alex Palluzzi can make copies for Sunday.
- **Essay contest** – Bill O'Brien will receive the names of the essay contest winners from Sen Cohen's staff and provide them to Harvey Goldstein for the parade booklet.
- **Van & Wreaths** - Alex Palluzzi will ensure the committee has wreaths for the cemetery visits on November 10. The van to transport the rifle salute battery and wreath laying personnel was also reconfirmed for Sunday morning.
- **Cemetery wreath laying:** it was reiterated that start time on November 10 will be 9:00 am.
- **Press Release/Publicity**- There were two articles in The Sound promoting the ceremony and parade. One was a parade announcement and the other was an article about the parade marshal, Joe Dendas, who was named the "Person of the Week."
- **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. Multiple chapters in neighboring towns were contacted and several groups said they would try to attend or make veterans aware they are welcome to march in our parade.
- **New Business:** The committee also discussed the future of the Veteran's Day Ceremony and Parade based on reduced parade participation, ceremony attendance and parade crowd size. Branford is one of the few towns that still has a Veterans

Day Parade. Many towns no longer have parades and just conduct a ceremony on the town green. Historically, less people are in attendance at Veterans Day events compared to Memorial Day. The committee feels this can be attributed to the Veterans Parade always occurring on a Sunday (vice a holiday) in November (vice May) so weekend activities and weather likely contribute to reduced attendance. The committee decided to table this discussion and observe attendance at this years event before discussing it again in the Spring.

- **Adjournment** – 5:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by: 
John Fitzgerald, Chairman

