




BRANFORD
VETERANS PARADE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Branford Community Center

Date/Time: October 16, 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 and Ray Ingraham.
- **Parade Marshal**- Branford resident Joe Dendas was nominated by the committee to serve as parade marshal. The committee unanimously approved the nomination. Mr. Dendas was notified by Bill O'Brien of his selection and he happily accepted. The committee chairman will also contact Mr. Dendas and thank him for serving as marshal.
- **Invocation/Benediction**- Pastor Steve Chamberlain (Invocation) and Rayzl Feuer (Benediction) were confirmed for participation in the ceremony on the Green.
- **Parade permit status** – John Fitzgerald reported that the permit for the parade submitted to the CT State Department of Transportation was approved.
- **Sound system**: Dennis Nardella (who provides the sound system) has confirmed he will have an additional speaker at the ceremony on the Green and will try to ensure wider sound coverage so everyone can hear the emcee and speakers.
- **Update on marching units/booklet review** – The chairman has touched base with the Branford High School Marching Band which has confirmed participation in the naval ceremony on the Montowese Bridge, the ceremony on the Green and the parade. The committee also reviewed/edited the entire ceremony program.
- **Vehicles**: A van and driver for the cemetery visits on November 10, 2024 has been confirmed.
- **Essay contest** – Bill O'Brien has confirmed that Sen. Christine Cohen will spearhead the essay contest.
- **Wreaths** - Alex Palluzzi will ensure the committee has wreaths for the cemetery visits on November 10.
- **Press Release/Publicity**- The committee will work with Pam Johnson from *The Sound* to get word out about the parade and the parade marshal.
- **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 confirmed the high school gym as the backup venue 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. No update was provided.
- **Next meeting** will take place on Wednesday, October 30, 2024 @ 4:30 P.M.
- **Adjournment** – 5:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:



John Fitzgerald, Chairman

