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BRANFORD
VETERANS PARADE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Branford Community Center

Date/Time: May 21, 2024 – 4:30 P.M.

- **Call to Order** - In attendance were Alex Palluzzi, Jr., John Fitzgerald (Chairman), Dennis Flanigan, Harvey Goldstein, Elliott Hastings, Donald Langlois, Ed Masotta, William O'Brien, Philip Zielinski, Ray Ingraham, Vincent Giordano.
- **Invocation/Benediction** – Both Pastor Steve Chamberlain and Rayzl Feuer reconfirmed their participation.
- **Parade permit status** – John Fitzgerald reported that the State of Connecticut finally approved the permit for the parade and appreciated the assistance of the Town Engineer, John Hoefflerle.
- **Gettysburg Address** – Michael Kinney was confirmed for reciting The Gettysburg Address. The committee will also contact the Kinney family to determine if there is an alternate family member available in case Mr. Kinney is unavailable for future parades.
- **Update on marching units/booklet review** – New marching groups this year included: Branford Little League, Soundview YMCA and The Rotary. The committee reviewed the program for the ceremony/parade and decided to change the last page to honor Bill O'Brien and name him Veteran Parade Committee Chairman, Emeritus. The last page of the program for future parades will feature an item appropriate for Memorial Day (i.e. a theme for Memorial Day, The history/meaning of Memorial Day or something similar). Vin Giordano will serve as emcee for the ceremony.
- **Essay contest** – Bill O'Brien has received essay submissions and will work with members of the committee to determine essay winners and will provide those names for the program.

- **BHS gym/foul weather** – Dennis Flanigan confirmed that the high school gym has been acquired as the backup venue for the ceremony as the forecast for Monday is rain. The committee determined that the Committee Chairman, John Fitzgerald, and Chief of Staff, Alex Palluzzi, will look at the most current forecast Sunday evening and make a decision regarding the parade. The committee felt it was best to let all participants, Branford PD, Branford facilities, etc know Sunday evening vice Monday morning. Fitzgerald will also send an email to all participants informing them that a go/no-go decision will be made Sunday night.
- **Bugler:** Long time Bugler, Steve Vacca, informed the committee late last week he will be unable to attend the events at the cemeteries and Town Green to play TAPS. The committee discussed contingency plans including contacting the BHS Band to see if a band member could play TAPS; contacting military reservists and possibly attaining a digital bugle.
- **Old/New Business** – There was no new business, and everything discussed came under the heading of old business.
- **Adjournment** – 5:20 P.M.



Submitted by: 
John Fitzgerald, Chairman