



TOWN OF BROOKLYN

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Memorial Day Parade Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 21, 2024, 5:30 pm
Clifford B. Green Memorial Building
and via Zoom

Present: Austin Tanner, Joe Asermelly, Stephanie Bellows, Lou Brodeur, Sandy Brodeur, Amy Brosnan, Courtney Crofts, Rich Dvorin, John Genna, Keith Gosselin, Ray Preece, Tiffany Rosen, Bill Skeen, Lisa Mileski, Recording Secretary

Via Zoom: Carrie Barna

1. Call to Order: A. Tanner called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.
2. Approve Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2024: L. Brodeur made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 22, 2024; R. Dvorin seconded; and the minutes were approved.
3. Public Comment: None
4. Roles:
 - R. Dvorin – recruiting more Veterans: R. Dvorin stated he was working hard at recruiting as many Veterans as he can.
 - L. Brodeur – wagons for transportation: L. Brodeur confirmed that there will be two wagons to transport the Veterans during the parade.
 - A. Brosnan – floats: A. Brosnan has posted that we are looking for groups to do floats, and she reached out to the boy scouts, cub scouts, girl scouts, the school, PTO, the Elks, etc. The scouts will be walking due to insurance reasons. She is waiting to hear back from the Elks. WINY Radio has already committed to the Putnam Parade. Mortlake and Little League will have floats and a real estate company showed some interest.
 - A. Brosnan, K. Gosselin, K. Thiffeault, J. Asermelly, and C. Crofts – games: A. Brosnan said she is going with a patriotic theme for all the games, giant Jenga, ring toss, sack races, tug-of-war, etc. and she will reach to C. Barna to talk about the mini boot camp.
 - C. Crofts and T. Rosen – Organization of parade line up on Memorial Day: C. Rosen said this will happen when we have a list of who will be marching, and we will work it like we did last year with signs for each group.
 - A. Tanner and S. Brodeur – Wreaths: A. Tanner will order them and pick them up; and S. Brodeur will make sure they are placed where they need to be placed.
 - T. Rosen – Elementary School Chorus (Jonathan March): T. Rosen said she spoke with Mr. March, and he is onboard; we just need to let him know what time and where the students need to be. She said right now he is at about 60 students so they would have to be placed in front of the stage. C. Crofts said that Mr. March should coordinate with Mr. Kelleher; and T. Rosen said she would mention that to him and also make sure that Mr. Kelleher was asked to be in the parade.
 - C. Crofts – Killingly High School Band: C. Crofts said she emailed Mr. J. Ethier, and he did not respond, so she is going to have the printed email hand delivered to him.

-K. Gosselin and A. Brosnan –Recruitment of Town Businesses: K. Gosselin stated that the BBA is looking into doing a combined float; and he is working to see if they want to sponsor any events at the Fairgrounds after. He also said Vachan Chevrolet said they would be willing to provide vehicles for the parade.

-D. Lee – PA system: D. Lee was not present, but S. Brodeur said she was sure this would be fine.

-S. Breen – donuts and cheese: We had extra last year but this year, we are having a “family fun day” so we may have more people. A. Brosnan said she put in a request to Baker’s Dozen for a donation, but she has not heard back.

-S. Breen – fire trucks and members to keep the parade in line: S. Breen was not present, but S. Brodeur remarked that she was sure it would be done.

-A. Tanner and J. Voccio – program for Parade: R. Preece will check with A. Tanner on this.

-C. Crofts and T. Rosen – serving donuts and cheese and coffee?: T. Rosen said last year it was her and her girls and she does not mind doing it again, but she is not doing coffee. She said there will be soda and water, but that is not on the list as to who is taking care of this. We had some drinks last year leftover from Earth Day. S. Skene thought it was S. Rukstela who took care of this. We will need to find out. S. Brodeur made a motion that we call the event after the parade “Red, White and Brooklyn Bash”; L. Brodeur seconded; and the motion passed.

-S. Vogt – Assisting in recruiting a Grand Marshall: S. Vogt had suggested an individual, but L. Mileski checked with her, and she is unable to do it. S. Vogt is going to check further into other individuals. S. Brodeur made a motion to appoint C. Barna as the Grand Marshall; R. Dvorin seconded; and the motion passed.

-S. Brodeur – checking with Corey LeBlanc about videoing the parade: S. Brodeur stated she spoke with C. LeBlanc, and he is willing to do this for us, we just need to let him know exactly what we want.

5. Taps: J. Genna said that Mr. Kelleher has had students do it in the past, and T. Rosen said she would reach out to him. J. Genna said if we do not find someone, his son, Anthony Genna, could do it. T. Rosen will also ask Ms. Caron at the Brooklyn Middle School about volunteering students to read the poems. L. Brodeur said that A. Tanner should contact the Resident Trooper because if we have floats, we may need to set up detours, etc.

6. Who is in charge of getting people (students) to hand out the flags to spectators: J. Genna said he could have the scouts hand out the flags. We will need to see how many flags we have remaining from last year.

7. Color Guard: L. Mileski will check with Natchaug Young Marines about doing the Color Guard.

8. Public Comment: J. Genna said in the past the Scouts are asked to lay the wreathes at the cemetery (1), monument (3), Israel Putnam monument (1), post office (1), at the fire department (1), Trinity Church (1), and the Pond (1). S. Skene said the Fire Departments were invited. R. Preece mentioned that we need a clergy, and Reverend Jane Newall was suggested. S. Brodeur said the parade could go from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. and it was decided we could confirm at next meeting a timeline, after we have a better idea of how many will be in the parade. L. Brodeur suggested maybe starting the speeches at 8:30 am so the parade could begin right at 9:00 am. The next meeting was set up for April 18, 2024 at 5:30 pm. (After checking this date, it is not available so we will schedule it for April 11, 2024 at 7:30 pm.) S. Brodeur made a motion to appoint Carrie Barna as Grand Marshall of the Memorial Day Parade; R. Dvorin seconded; and the motion passed.

9. Adjourn: S. Brodeur made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 pm; R. Dvorin seconded; and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Mileski, Recording Secretary

