

MEETING MINUTES

PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE

Date: March 6th 2024

Time: 7:00 PM

Meeting called to order by: Shawn Bator

IN ATTENDANCE

Cale Sikkila, Mandy Bator, Shawn Bator, Peter Somero, Tammy Hannu, Travis Somero, Linda Kivela

ELECTIONS

Chairman: Shawn Bator

Secretary: Travis Somero

BUDGET

- Total Proposed budget \$3990
- Last year expenditure
 - Flags \$1342.76
 - Memorial Day \$1230.41
 - Flag maintenance \$0058.41
 - **Total** **\$2631.58**

MAINTENANCE

- Flags and medallions
 - DPW takes care of the flags for the telephone poles
 - Need new grave medallions
 - See if we can get a discount for bulk buying

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE (19TH OF MAY)

Music

- Band options
 - Bagpipe band still available
 - Keen band
 - Temple band
 - Peter to look into it
 - Mascenic and Franklin Pierce bands are not available.
 - Possibly able to use Rindge or Milford Band
 - Mandy to reach out to Conval
- Goodrich Girls
 - Linda will ask if they are wanting to perform again
- Linda contacted Meridith Lund to sing again
 - no response
- John Veaser for soldiers monument amazing grace
- Cale will ask his siblings if they would be willing to sing
- One singer/group per stop would be ideal

Groups Marching

- ROTC
 - Only color Guard
 - Still waiting for confirmation
- Veterans
 - Should we continue sending letters
 - How effective/ cost efficient is it to send letters to every veteran in town
 - Could send to only the elders, and invite others on social media/in person
 - Shawn is building a trailer for the veterans to ride on
 - Phil Thayer donates a tractor for children's fair
 - Could see if he is willing to donate for the parade
 - Ben Hatcher also has a tractor that could be used
 - Shawn Bator to reach out
- We need three ministers for invocation & Benediction
 - Smithville Cemetery Gary Bertram or Joel Sikkila
 - Central Cemetery Ken Whitson
 - Soldiers monument (Possibly Jason Somero Mike Martel, Bob Hakala, Charlie Saari, Lars Traffie)
 - Linda to get numbers
- Peter, Shawn, and Cale as master of ceremonies
 - Each take one part
 - Smithville cemetery/bridge
 - Central cemetery
 - Soldiers' monument
- Who is doing the sound
 - Cale can help supply sound equipment
 - Linda will ask Ken if he is still doing the sound
- Need to ask the Town Clerk about the list of veterans, veterans that died in the last year and honor role
 - Peter Somero will ask
- Flower ceremonies
 - Find kids by word of mouth
 - Tammy to organize
 - Typically, pieces of a lilac
 - Need to find where to get them
 - Could be any flower
- Wreaths
 - Linda will ask Ollie

- Is there a specific name for the design
 - Could check amazing flower farm
- Big bouquet of geraniums (optional)
 - Ollie usually would buy and use as decorations during the parade
 - Depending on funds
- Boy Scouts
 - Linda will reach out to Steve Rothwell
- Sports teams
 - Travis opened communications with the Little League Baseball
 - They sound interested, but no commitment
 - Could ask about the softball teams as well
 - Travis Somero will ask the rec department about it
- Greenville legion 21 gun salute
 - Shawn Bator will reach out
- Taps
 - Need someone to play
 - Possibly someone in the band if we hire one

Changing the parade date

- Possibly change to one large parade instead of a morning and afternoon

Financing

- Donating
 - May be able to ask the rec department to handle donations
 - Travis Somero to reach out

Miscellaneous/New Ideas

- Selectmen
 - Shawn Bator to go before the Select Board to announce the parade
 - Ask if they would speak at the parades
 - Let the selectmen choose which parade to speak at
- Social media to get word out
 - Short videos about veterans stories
- Smithville starts at 10
 - Meet at 9
 - Proposed to start at 9:30
 - Help those who wish to attend church after the ceremony
 - It was agreed that we will pursue starting at 9:30
- Central parade starts at 1:00
 - Meet at congregational church at 12:30
- Could make our parades longer
 - Merrimack parade 4th of July is one hour long
- Could include reenactors like the Ashby memorial day parade
 - Honor those who fought in those wars, but no veterans are left alive
 - Revolutionary time
 - Civil war time
- Is there a raising flag ceremony
 - Shawn Bator to investigate
- Provide hot dogs for whole community with donation jar
 - After the parade have social gathering

FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

- Rec department is interested in doing a festival
 - Could team up with them to help alleviate the funds issue

UNRESOLVED BUISNESS

- Fourth of July parade
- Treasurer

NEXT MEETING

- Wed March 27th

MEETING ADJOURNED

- 9:45 PM

TASKS

- Shawn Bator
 - Main contact for bagpipe band
 - Reach out to Fall Mountain ROTC
 - Waiting on confirmation
 - Working on the trailer for Veterans to ride on
 - Reach out to Greenville legion to confirm their color guard can do the salute
 - Announce before the select board the times of the parades
 - Reach out to Ben Hatcher about a tractor to pull the trailer
 - Reach out to pastors about the benediction and Invocation
 - Gary Bertram
 - Mike Martel,
 - Bob Hakala
 - Chalie Saari
 - Lars Traffie
 - Investigate if there should be a Flag raising ceremony
 - investigate our stockpile of flags and medallions
- Mandy Bator
 - Help out with reaching out to veterans to march
 - Reach out to Don
 - Help out place flags and medallions
 - Reach out to Conval if their band would be available
- Carl Toko
 - Place flags and medallions in the spring and clean up in the fall
 - Talk to Jon Poltrack about helping get word out to veterans
- Tammy Hannu
 - Help Carl with the flags and medallions.
 - Organizing the flower ceremonies
 - Need to find flowers
 - Organize the kids
- Travis Somero
 - Start talks with Mindy about donation money
 - Create a Parade Template
 - Talk to Mindy about softball marching
- Peter Somero
 - Find the list of Veterans and veterans that died
 - Help investigate our stockpile of flags and medallions
 - Investigate if the temple band could play
- Cale Sikkila
 - Help with sound for the parades
- Linda Kivela
 - Ask if the Goodrich girls are interested in performing again
 - Get pastors numbers to Shawn Bator
 - Bob Hakala
 - Mike Martel
 - Ask Pastor Ken Whitson if he would be in the parade
 - Ask Ken if he is still wanting to do the sound for parades
 - Ask Ollie about where he got the wreaths
 - Reach out to Steve Rothwell about the boy scouts marching