

Metuchen Parade Commission

Monday, March 13, 2023

Attendees: Maggy Cook, Bernie Hetzel, Lisa Hyman, Terry Kohl, Ellen Regan and Wendi Richards

Minutes

Memorial Day Ceremony

- Plans regarding Staff Sgt. Uhrin's funeral are not finalized. The Department of Defense is waiting on approval from his nephew. Once they receive approval, the funeral will likely take place within 10 days. Timing it to take place the day of the funeral is unlikely. Burial will be at Hillside Cemetery.
- Maggy confirmed the color guard, they will lead the parade and participate in the ceremony.
- Terry confirmed Nancy Conroy, a soloist from RiseUp Chorus
- Terry will secure the two wreaths needed for Staff Sgt. Uhrin. It was suggested to reach out to Forever Flowers in Ford.

Memorial Day Parade

- Lisa offered to reach out to the Montford Point Marines for a Grand Marshall and/or reviewing officer
- Wendi will notify the DPW of our requests: small stage at the Plaza, along with a dozen chairs; the reviewing stand at Cai's; and two dozen chairs at Memorial Park.
- Ellen will complete the request form to secure a spot on Main Street for the banner.
- Ellen will ask Brandon Uhlig to create a flyer promoting the parade and registration.
 - Commission agreed 11x14 flyers for the Main Street businesses should be produced
- In an effort to increase marcher participation, Lisa suggested having a contest with the downtown businesses encouraging floats, entertainment, etc. She offered to reach out to the MDA to discuss further.
- Terry confirmed Robert Bullington to provide the sound at Cai's and the Plaza
- Participant registration form will go live the week of April 10
- Rob confirmed the Metuchen high school marching bands' participation in the parade and ceremony
 - Requested to have the band play the National Anthem so the crowd can sing along
- Rob reached out to the Metuchen high school guidance counselor office asking that we be notified of any students attending military school.
- Terry said a Double Dutch group is interested in participating, she will confirm.

New Business

- It was requested to change the monthly meeting date from Mondays to Tuesdays. Ellen will find out if that is possible.
- With John Gaven recently stepping down from the commission, Ellen will ask that Bernie and Terry be made official members.