



TOWN of DARIEN
MONUMENTS & CEREMONIES COMMISSION
Town Hall, 2 Renshaw Road, Darien, Connecticut 06820

Monuments and Ceremonies Commission Minutes 1/14/14

The meeting was called to order at 3:29 PM by Chairman, Phil Kraft with the following Commissioners present: Marian Castell, Dawn Crouch, Becky Siciliano, Rollie Holub, Ken Reiss, Sueann Schorr and George Walsh.

Minutes of the November 12 meeting were approved as read, on a motion by Rollie, second Ken. Due to weather, no meeting was held in December. Phil reminded us that when there is no school, there is no meeting of our Commission. Apologies were made to those who made it through the snow to Town Hall.

After welcoming all for the New Year, Phil asked that all email corrections and phone numbers be sent to Karen so that cell and home phones can be used in case Commissioners need to be notified quickly. Karen has no phone numbers for most of the Commissioners. Please send these to her at: Harley87dp@yahoo.com

Terry was not in attendance so he will report on the Memorial Day Essay Contest progress at the February meeting. The Town Hall lobby display case is presently being used by the Ivanhoe Lodge #107 AF&AM. Ken will notify Jack Gault at the Darien Historical Society so that their display is ready for February. The case will be free in the spring for school use.

Access to the Darien website has been tabled until David Polett's return.

Meeting dates for the Commission for 2014 are attached and should be noted.

No one alerted or invited members of the Memorial Day Parade Commission to the January meeting so presentation from them will be at a later date. Walter R. McCurdy is the chosen Grand Marshal for the 2014 Memorial Day Parade and Commander Joseph Gibaldi will be the speaker during the ceremony held in Spring Grove Veterans' Cemetery following the Parade. Bios from both are forthcoming.

Phil reported on the continued success of Darien's Wreaths Across America program. This year, we had 741 wreaths. The VFW has expressed an interest in becoming more actively involved in 2014. Whenever there was a serviceman present at the collection table, residents always gave generously. Suggested for next year was having VFW members standing at intersections and collecting with a hat similar to the fire department collecting with a boot.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



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We need 1500 wreaths to cover all the standing Veteran grave markers at Spring Grove.

Phil brought new thoughts to the Commission regarding the VFW building. The building was moved to its present site in 1949 having been used on the Fitch site as the Chapel. It is the last surviving “working” building from the original Fitch Home. There are still a few former officer’s homes on West Avenue.

The VFW building needs new siding and the windows replaced and much interior work needs to be done. Obtaining State Historical status for the building (Register of Historic Places) would help to eliminate some of the code issues and save money when the building is re done. Marian offered to move forward with the paperwork. Phil will supply the website materials to Marian for this beginning project. It was also suggested that Linda Schwartz might be able to help in some way. The VFW has 501 c(19) status. Phil has appropriate colors picked out, but historical recognition is the first step.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:08 PM on a motion by George, second Rollie. Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 3:30 PM in Room 206 of the Darien Town Hall.

Minutes taken by Becky Siciliano and transcribed from her notes by Karen K. Polett. **This is an amended form of the minutes.**

**Submitted,
Karen K. Polett
Secretary**