

## MONUMENTS & CEREMONIES COMMISSION

### 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014 MEETING MINUTES (draft copy)

**PRESENT:** Chick Scribner, Phil Kraft, John Geoghegan, George Walsh, Ian Konecke, Terry Gaffney, Dawn Crouch. Also present Kate Kuras & Sara Franzese from Memorial Day Parade Committee. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 2:30

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:** Having been previously distributed and read, a motion was made to approve the minutes, seconded and passed unanimously; Terry Gaffney to forward on to Town Clerk.

**MEMORIAL DAY PARADE COMMITTEE REPORT:** Presented by Sara Franseze & Kate Kuras

- Past parade participants have been notified by mail; follow up letters planned a few weeks out.
- **PR-** Jen Forlizzi helping; took photo of group and put forward to the paper. Stories planned.
- **Grand Marshall Choice** is now part of MDPC's responsibility; M&C will continue to forward candidates for consideration.

- **Music-** Band costs have escalated due to bus insurance costs... should factor cost in for next year's budget request. We paid a stipend last year to bagpiper Don Cavett. Discussion about budgetary limitations resulted in consensus that monies are not available to pay a single piper.

**Pace-of-march-** too many lengthy gaps last year; group leaders to monitor pace more effectively, especially with younger participants.

**Pre-Parade Parking** by National Guard members in Goodwives lot was an issue last year; suggested police and parade committee members be on hand by 8:00AM to control effectively.

**Expenses-** Committee has need to replace some paraphernalia, some signs etc. ... agreed the monies need should be submitted through M&C Commission

**Depot requested scooters-** considered as a group idea, but rejected as not possible to monitor effectively, and presents safety issues to both marchers and onlookers... also opens door for bicycle participation which would be even more challenging for same reasons.

### MEMORIAL DAY ESSAY CONTEST

- Information on essay [MEMORIAL DAY: Remembering and honoring those who gave their lives in service to our country](#) In the hands of both MMS and DHS. Terry Gaffney to follow up.

### MEMORIAL DAY CEMETERY CEREMONY

Phil to speak with Sue Swiatek at Parks & Rec about appropriate permits etc.

Music

- Tudor Singers (Chris Andrade- moderator- also 'sound man')- can perform Star Spangled Banner... discussion about adding fourth verse to performance as well.

- DHS Band (Jonathan Grauer- DHS Band moderator) will be asked to perform as well, but cost to Board of Ed for bus and custodial oversight might be an issue. Their presence will probably increase attendance at ceremony... if they are able to perform, Tudor Singers may be switched to perform 'God Bless America'

- Brass Ensemble- played from speaker's platform last year before Ceremony and were highly effective at drawing crowd to ceremony. They will be asked to repeat again this year.
- Essay winners to be invited to read their works as well.
- Grand Marshall and Speaker must furnish more complete resumes.

**DISPLAY CASE SCHEDULE-** Darien Historical Society due in next.

**VFW BUILDING- STATUS FOR HISTORICAL SITE LIST-** Marian Castell in contact with State VFW commissioner Linda Schwartz to follow up on potential designation for historical site status.

**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA-** has been handled by Committee members but outside committee's domain. Suggested that Committee should approach the Town to be a co-sponsor, at least from a funding aspect, as the better the cemetery looks, the better the town looks.

**COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS:** all sitting members still active, terms carried forward until replacement(s) come forward for nomination and appointment.

**ERRATA** – Noted there is no official acknowledgement of Merchant Marine Service personnel in Veteran's Memorial Circle at Town Hall... due to no Merchant Marine personnel from town lost in conflict. Terry Gaffney to contact local active personnel for ideas to be presented.

No further business raised, meeting adjourned at 4:20.

**NEXT MEETING:** PTuesday, April 08<sup>th</sup> at 3:30

Submitted by Terry Gaffney in Karen Polett's absence.