

Minutes of the Monuments and Ceremonies Commission Meeting

January 8, 2013

Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Phil Kraft at 3:30 PM. The following Commissioners were present: Sueann Schorr, John Geoghegan, George Walsh, Marian Castell, Rollie Holub, Karen Polett, Dawn Crouch, Terry Gaffney, Ken Reiss, and Bob Riith.

The minutes of the December 11, 2012 meeting were accepted as read on a motion by Rollie, second Terry.

1. The Wreaths Across America ceremony on December 15, 2012 went well. Excellent attendance. The DHS football team, DHS boys hockey team and SOS students were a great help with transporting and lifting. First Selectwoman, Jayme Stevenson placed a wreath at the Firefighters' Monument on the Post Road in honor of the 26 victims of the December 14, tragedy in Newtown.
2. Terry suggested Admiral Joseph Maguire, former head of the Seals who captured Osama Bin Laden as a possible 2013 Memorial Day speaker. Terry will contact the Admiral and report back on his availability at our February meeting.
3. Phil Kraft was elected as Grand Marshall for the 2013 Parade by our Commission at our meeting last year and we hope the new Committee honors this selection.
4. A meeting of the newly formed 2013 Memorial Day Parade Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, January 16, at 7:30 PM at the Darien Town Hall. Phil Kraft and Sara Franzese are coordinating this.
5. Phil mentioned that the Town attorney is working on the insurance policy for the 2013 Parade. The flyover is also being scheduled for 2013.
6. Photos of the re-dedication of the 100th anniversary of the Tokeneke Bridge Plaque are on display in the case at the entrance to Town Hall. Special thanks to Lisa Grant who took and mounted the photos commemorating this event. Our Commission purchased this display case many years ago.
7. Resolutions of Condolence from the Commission were sent to member Charles Scribner on the death of his wife, Mary; and to Rebecca Siciliano on the death of her mother.
8. Terry Gaffney has contacted Darien School personnel, Dr. Judith Pandolfo and Mr. Byrnes about the 2013 Memorial Day Essay Contest which the Monuments Commission plans to sponsor in grades 3-12. We hope to raise awareness of the meaning of Memorial Day among our youth. Terry will report progress on this project to us again in February.
9. Many members are still awaiting their appointments to this Commission. Phil noted that newly appointed Commissioner, Nanci Natale works and is unable to attend our meetings.

10. Inventory of Town of Darien Monuments continues with Katie Schorr and two other Scouts working on the list. Karen volunteered to meet with the girls to discuss guidelines for this project. Several monuments need to be added to the existing list, all should be described and placement dates noted, and new photographs taken. All Monuments need to be inventoried. Discussion followed about possible vandalism if we list the exact location of these monuments on the Darien website.

11. Mention was made of the many cemeteries in Darien and Ken and Marian offered to bring a list of all cemeteries from the Darien Historical Society to our February meeting. Questions about which cemeteries are on private property and which are on Town property arose. Care of the cemeteries, graves, and signs was discussed.

12. Karen mentioned that Dave Polett will get two estimates for the repairs to the Old Town Hall flagpole.

13. A budget meeting is scheduled for 11:00 AM on Tuesday, January 15, at Phil's office.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:25 PM on a motion by George Walsh; second John Goeghegan. The next meeting of the Monuments and Ceremonies Commission is scheduled for February 12, 2013, in Room 206 at the Darien Town Hall.

Submitted by,

Karen Kreitzberger Polett

Secretary