

# Minutes of the Monuments and Ceremonies Commission Meeting

March 12, 2013

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9:24 AM

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WN CLERK'S OFFICE  
DARIEN CT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Phil Kraft at 3:30 PM. Commissioners present were: Dawn Crouch, John Geoghegan, Rollie Holub, Phil Kraft, Ken Reiss, Sueann Schorr, Chick Scribner, George Walsh.

The minutes of the February 12 meeting were accepted as written.

## Memorial Day:

--Phil Kraft noted Terry Gaffney's report on the Memorial Day essay contest (that it will be limited to high school students on a voluntary basis). Suggested that if the winning entry merits it, it could be read at the cemetery observance by the author in lieu of having a speaker. But a backup speaker will be needed in case that proved impracticable.

--Also noted that the Commission will take responsibility for the reviewing stand as well as the speakers' platform. He will contact Parks & Rec about erection of same. The commission also continues to be responsible for the fire bell, chairs and public address system, though that now can be plugged in to the new electrical outlet, eliminating need for a generator.

--Phil Kraft also will speak to Jonathan Grauer about the high school band playing the National Anthem at the ceremony; also about the possibility of their playing music as an attraction before the ceremony begins. Will speak to Dave Polett about Patriot Brass as well.

--John Geoghegan suggested that a sign or banner be erected by the Post Road inviting all to the ceremony; also suggested that perhaps some music at that site could draw attention to it.

--Sueann Schorr reported for the parade committee... They are planning a coloring contest. They have met with the Darien Police, who suggested they contact Phil Kraft...the committee wants to arrange more communication with groups re: the safety of children marchers and guidelines for dropping them off at the parade lineup...committee discussed ways to get more people to remain at the ceremony after the parade. Sueann familiarized the group with the role played at the shopping center by the SAS group from the high school. Phil Kraft

asked her to provide him with a list of people/organizations who should be thanked in the printed program. He also suggested that vips be briefed on going to the reviewing stand.

--George Walsh suggested that ceremony attendees be given a memento to show their attendance...perhaps a sticker with a poppy or... Phil Kraft will investigate.

--Chick Scribner noted that the Boy Scouts will place the flags at the graves of the veterans in the cemetery, and the Girl Scouts will remove the flags when appropriate.

--Sueann Schorr inquired if chairs should be provided for needy spectators at the ceremony, but the consensus was that the physical layout of the ceremony would permit only a few, which would become problematic.

--Invocation and benediction discussed. John Geoghegan agreed to invite the same clergy as last year, and to request that they switch roles at this year's ceremony.

#### **Other Business:**

--Budget: Terry Gaffney was unable to locate the draft of the Commission's budget proposal, and it is now too late to submit it. Phil Kraft urged an early start on next year's.

--Display case application. Ken Reiss re-wrote the application. The new version was approved and copies directed to the Selectmans' office.

--Monuments inventory: Sueann Schorr reported that the Girl Scouts had begun the inventory and would like to make a report at the May meeting.

--Member clarification: Phil Kraft read his correspondence with Nancy Natale about the confusion surrounding her appointment to Monuments and Ceremonies (without the Commission's knowledge) and her inability to attend daytime meetings. His suggestion was that she should be on the parade committee, which holds evening meetings, instead.

--Phil Kraft announced that Sueann Schorr will receive the YWCA Distinguished Service Award.

**The next meeting will be held April 9, 2013, at 3:30 PM**

This meeting was adjourned at 4:15, upon a motion by Rollie Holub, seconded by Sueann Schorr.

Submitted by Ken Reiss, substitute for the Secretary.



## Darien Republican Town Committee

March 3, 2013

Bob Bewkes  
Chairman

James Palen  
Vice Chairman

Laurie Williamson  
Secretary

Chris La Jaunie  
Treasurer

John Sini, Jr.  
Deputy Treasurer

John Boulton

Bill Ferguson

Sara Franzese

Danielle Granath

Chip Kelley

Nanci Natale

Spencer McIlmurray

Doug Mckay

Jenn Montanaro

Seth Morton

Joe Pizzarelli

Ray Slavin

Ciara Thurlow

Matt Troy

Peter Truebner

Guy Wisinski

Jayne Stevenson  
First Selectman

Office of the First Selectman  
Darien Town Hall  
Room 202  
Two Renshaw Road  
Darien, CT 06820

Dear Jayme,

The Darien Republican Town Committee has nominated the candidates listed below for the following boards and commissions:

Monuments & Ceremonies Commission

Appointment(s):

Susann Schorr, as a Member, term: December 1, 2012 to November 30, 2015

Ron Holub, as a Member, term: December 1, 2012 to November 30, 2015

Re-appointment(s):

Charles Scribner, as a Member, term: December 1, 2012 to November 30, 2015

Karen Polett, as a Member, term: December 1, 2012 to November 30, 2015

Enclosed with this letter you will find the resumes of each of the above candidates.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Regards,

*Seth*

Seth Morton  
Chair, Recruiting

C:  
Robert Bewkes  
Chairman

Brief Monuments Inventory 2013: copied by Karen K. Polett, Secretary,  
Darien Monuments & Ceremonies Commission copied for Scouting Project

1. Veteran's Honor Roll and Flagpole: Post Road at Railroad Station. Stone and Plaque containing names of Darien men killed in WWI and WWII. Dedicated 1942
2. Veteran's Memorial Flagpole: 719 Post Road. Granite stone with plaques on both sides
3. George Washington Commemorative Monument: Old Kings Highway South and Good Wives River Road; Dedicated 1932. This was the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Washington's birthday. Re-furbished by Military Order of the Purple Heart Veterans Association
4. Ring's End Landing Stone and Plaque: Ring's End Road and Bridge over Noroton River; dedicated 1970 in celebration of 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Darien.
5. Fitch's Home for Soldiers, Widows and Orphans: Plaque and Tree. Noroton Avenue; re Dedicated 1984
6. Flagpole and Marker for tree from Little Round Top at former Fitch's Home: Noroton Avenue; donated by Sons of Veteran's of New Haven. September 27, 1925; tree placed by Post 6933 Veteran's of Foreign Wars of the United States of America, Dedicated May 30, 1986; Gettysburg Tree replaced by Monuments and Ceremonies Committee in 1992; chipped and destroyed 2012. Land owned by Darien Housing Authority now.
7. Brownstone Plaque at Old White Bridge: Tokeneke Road at Norwalk Town Line; Dedicated 1912; Plaque removed from bridge before bridge demolition and re-Dedicated November 2, 2012
8. Tilley Family Memorial Monument Stone Plaque: Tilley Park, West Avenue; stone dedicated 1974 to honor George Dudley Tilley and Marguerite Cleveland Tilley and tree donated by their daughters and heirs. Also, in the same location is the Tilley Park Bicentennial Monument; Dedicated 1976.
9. Nick Frate Memorial Monument: Leroy and Middlesex Roads; Dedicated November 29, 1970. Donated by Piedmont Associates, " In grateful appreciation for his many years of devoted and unselfish service to the town of Darien."
10. Michael Deleonardis Memorial Monument: Pear Tree Point Beach; Dedicated June 12, 1972, by Rotary Club of Darien; and also in this location is the Barbara B. Clark Bench, donated by friends; Dedicated September 1, 2001. Located to the right of the boat ramp
11. Gennaro Frate Memorial Monument: Goodwives Shopping Center: Old King's Highway North; Stone and Plaque on land formerly owned by Granaston, Inc. On private property so not ours to maintain. Dedicated February 1, 1987
12. Cynthia H. Casey ( 1934-1987) Field; Chairman of Darien Park and Recreation Commission 1984-1987 and Chairman of Darien RTM Park and Recreation Committee 1979-1984. Located Southeast of the main entrance to Cherry Lawn Park; Dedicated November 1, 1987.
13. Peter Pund ( 1907-1987) Chairman of Beautification Commission. Memorial Tree: southeast of front parking circle; Darien Town Hall; Dedicated September, 1988
14. Ziegler Memorial Park: northern entrance to Pear Tree Point Beach sidewalk near boat ramp; Dedicated 1987

15. Blue and White steel sign gives a brief summary of Darien's history composed by Mrs. Edward McLean and Mrs. Robert Wall, historians of the Darien Historical Society; inscriptions on both sides.; dedicated October 1984. The CT Historical Commission in 1979 offered these signs to all municipalities as gifts from the State

16. Firefighter's Monument; Post Road. Idea conceived by Mr. John LaRock. Inscribed: "To our brave volunteer firefighters past and present from a grateful community." Dedicated, October 7, 2000.

17. September 11, Memorial Monument; grassy area behind Middlesex Middle School. Idea conceived and funding raised by Josh Doying, then a freshman at DHS in 2002; Dedicated September 11, 2003

18. Veteran's Memorial Circle; Darien Town Hall. Three fieldstone boulders 5x6 feet broad; five bronze tablets attached naming those from Darien who died in the Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam. Dedicated Veteran's Day, November 11, 2006. Also includes Purple Heart Monument

The following are in Darien, but not our responsibility

Veteran's Memorial Flagpole in the Spring Grove Veterans' Cemetery, 41 Hecker Avenue is the centerpiece of the Veterans' Memorial of four ten feet tall carved limestone figures commissioned by the WPA and Dedicated on May 30, 1936, carved by Karl Fredrick Lang (1897-1952) who worked with famed sculptor, Gutzon Borglum.

Gettysburg Address Memorial Plaque is located in the Spring Grove Veterans' Cemetery; 41 Hecker Avenue, obtained by Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs, Linda Schwartz. It contains Gettysburg Address and silhouette of Abraham Lincoln, Dedicated July 1, 2012.