

Draft

Minutes of the June 11, 2013 Monuments and Ceremonies Commission Meeting

In the absence of Chairman, Phil Kraft, Vice Chairman, David Polett called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. Present were the following Commissioners: John Geoghegan, George Walsh, Karen Polett, Charles Scribner, Sueann Schorr, Dawn Crouch, Rebecca Siciliano, Terry Gaffney, Ian Konecke, Rollie Holub and Town Historian, Marian Castell. On a motion by George, second Rollie, minutes of the May 14, 2013 meeting were accepted as read.

On a motion by John, second George, a display case application from Scout Troop 50298 was approved for a month beginning during the summer, installation will occur ASAP. Scouts will present a photo essay on women who inspire them to make the world a better place. A pottery piece will be included in the display. Terry also asked for use of the display case for a month from August 28-September 28. It will be used for the local Alzheimer's Support Group prior to their awareness walk in September. Approval was granted pending receipt of the application from Terry.

Ian suggested that we ask each group applying for use of the Town Hall Lobby Display Case to write a 50 word summary of their application for publication in the local newspapers and Darien Patch. Hopefully, this would generate more interest from town groups in using the case.

Scouts, Katie Schorr, Isabel Sutherland, and Lorena DeCaprio presented a progress report of their Girl Scout project done on the Inventory of Darien Monuments. When completed, the Inventory could be linked to the Town website. The Inventory done to date will be circulated to all Commission members for their suggestions. Commissioners thanked the Scouts and look forward to hearing/seeing more.

Terry and Karen will work on letters thanking winners, Oliver Knight and Alexa Sheldon for reading and writing Essays for the First Annual "What Memorial day Means to Me and My Family" contest sponsored by our Commission. It was suggested that the speaker, Louis J. DiGiusto, III also be thanked and that a Thank You Letter to the Editor be sent to the two local newspapers and Darien Patch. Karen has already written a thank you to Mickey Doyle owner of Springdale Florists for his annual donation of the Memorial Day wreath.

Suggestions for the Memorial Day 2014 Parade included having more music played, possibly by a prescribed playlist of patriotic music for an iPod. The list could be made available to those groups with capabilities to electronically transmit these songs en route. Commissioners praised the Parade Committee organizers, Sara and Kate and the Darien Police and were grateful for their organization and support. Commissioners discussed the possibility of obtaining some sort of button, flower or badge to distribute to veterans to identify them in the next Parade. Distribution could be done at Goodwives Shopping Center during staging for the parade.

Several positive suggestions for Memorial Day 2014 were: 1. All marching groups should show their patriotism and support for veterans by displaying signs supporting veterans and/or carrying flags. 2. Divisions need to keep up with the group ahead of them in an organized fashion. 3. Some groups gave out candy which is a danger to young children if they run into the road to get candy, this should be addressed. 4. Parade should be filmed by Jim Cameron for the local Channel 79. 5. Grand Marshal sashes for next year's Parade should be inventoried, and if needed, ordered.

Commissioners were pleased with the addition of the Terry Gaffney's idea of the Memorial Day Essay Contest and with writers reading their essays at the cemetery ceremony. The Patriot Brass Ensemble playing patriotic music in the cemetery was inviting, and cemetery attendance was better this year. The Patriot Brass Ensemble has already been retained for next year by the sponsoring group, The Masonic Club of Darien.

Commissioners were reminded about the need for their attendance at the Flag Day ceremony prior to 6:30 PM on Friday, June 14, 2013 at the Darien Town Hall Veteran's Circle. Jeff Calcott and David Polett will conduct this event. Selectmen, First Responders, and Town Officials have been notified and invited to attend by Town Hall Secretary, Linda O'Leary.

Roses and wreaths will be obtained, and Selectmen and First Responders invited, to the September 11, 2013 ceremony at the 911 Monument located in the grassy area behind Middlesex School. The ceremony begins at 8:20 AM rain or shine. The next Monuments and Ceremonies Commission meeting will be on September 10, at 3:30 PM in Room 206 of the Darien Town Hall.

Meeting was adjourned on a motion by Rollie, second John.

Submitted,

Karen Kreitzberger Polett

Secretary