

**Minutes of the September 10, 2013 Meeting
Monuments and Ceremonies Commission**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM in Room 203 by Chairman, Phil Kraft. Present were the following Commissioners: Terry Gaffney, Karen Polett, John Geoghegan, Rollie Holub and Dawn Crouch. On a motion by Terry, second Rollie, the minutes of the June 11, 2013 M&C meeting were accepted as read.

Girl Scout Troop 50298 exhibit has been removed from the Town Hall lobby display case. Publicity for this exhibit was in both local papers and a copy was attached to the minutes. New display case applications are needed. Darien Men's Association, Ivanhoe Masonic Lodge and the Darien Historical Society will be contacted about a possible exhibit.

Roses and a wreath have been ordered and will be picked up by Karen and David from Springdale Florist (owner, Michael Doyle donates the wreath each year) for use tomorrow in the 9/11 ceremony. This ceremony will take place at 8:30 AM at the 9/11 Monument, on the lawn behind the Darien Middle School. Selectmen, town officials and first responders have been invited to attend. Terry Gaffney offered to contact and invite the parents of Josh Doying, the student who brought the 9/11 monument to fruition.

The 2013 Annual Report from the M&C Commission, has been completed by Karen and Phil and sent to the Selectmen well in advance of the October 1, 2013 due date.

Wreaths Across America ceremony scheduled for noon on December 14, 2013 at the Spring Grove Veterans' Cemetery in Darien was discussed briefly. A core group of volunteers will meet separately with Phil to finalize wreath sponsorship collection plans and obtain official forms. Several local groups help with this event. Terry offered to contact Stop and Shop corporate headquarters for permission to collect.

Two saplings from a Witness Tree in Gettysburg will be donated by CT Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs, Linda Schwartz, to the Housing Authority and to the Spring Grove Cemetery. This will occur at 10:30 AM on Friday, September 13, during a brief ceremony. Representatives from the M&C Commission are asked to attend.

Walter R. McCurdy was suggested by John Geoghegan as the Grand Marshal for the 2014 Parade. John distributed a typed bio (attached) of Mr. McCurdy's extensive military

service. This suggestion will be passed on to Sara Franzese and the Memorial Day Parade Committee.

Terry Gaffney will contact Darien Board of Education members to request permission, and then contact teachers, to hopefully continue our Commissions' Essay Contest for the 2014 Memorial Day Parade. Darien Middle School and High School students wrote an essay on "What Memorial Day means to me." Winning essays were read at the cemetery ceremony last year. Terry reported that he received excellent feedback about these student essays and the student participation.

Scouts who presented preliminary plans for a website to inventory Darien monuments will be invited to showcase their work at the October 8, Monuments and Ceremonies Commission meeting.

Meeting adjourned on a motion by Rollie Holub, second Dawn Crouch. Next meeting will be held in Room 206, at 3:30 PM, Tuesday, October 8, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Kreitzberger Polett

Secretary