

Monuments and Ceremonies Commission

Meeting Minutes November 8, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 PM in Room B-3 by Vice Chairman, Ken Reiss in the absence of Chairman, Phil Kraft. The following Commissioners attended: John Geoghegan, Dave Polett, Karen Polett, Bob Riith, Ken Reiss, Charles Scribner, Becky Siciliano, and George Walsh. John Amarilios filmed the meeting for Channel 79.

Minutes of the October 11, 2011 meeting were accepted as read on a motion by George Walsh, second David Polett.

New Business: Plans were finalized for the ceremony honoring veterans on November 11, 2011 at 11:00 AM at the Veteran's Circle in front of the Darien Town Hall. Jeff Calcott, Vice Commander of the Darien VFW Post 6933 will conduct the ceremony. Karen has ordered the floral tributes from Springdale Florist and will pick up the wreath and flowers on Friday before the ceremony.

Dave Polett checked with Phil Kraft via phone to be sure that the Town Hall would be open and the flag will be up for the Veteran's Day ceremony this Friday. The ceremony also will be fed live to the Darien Schools.

A moment of silence was held in honor of the passing of our former Monuments and Ceremonies Commission Chairman, Phil Morehouse. George Walsh mentioned that the Senior Men wanted to honor Phil Morehouse's memory with a memorial and perhaps rename Veteran's Circle. Ken Reiss and Karen Polett reminded Commissioners of our Commission Guidelines which require a year long waiting period for consideration of any memorial. Phil was our Commission Chairman when we adopted these guidelines. All agreed that Phil was certainly a citizen and Commission member worthy of a future memorial. Proposals should be submitted to our Commission for careful study and more discussion will follow.

Old Business: The flagpole at the Spring Grove Veteran's Cemetery has been refurbished, painted, and the halyard replaced. The cleat was relocated due to decay in the original position. Phil reported by phone that the connecting clips for the flags will also be fixed to our specifications (moved to the outer portion of the halyard). CT Commissioner of Veteran Affairs, Linda Schwartz, had previously agreed to cover the costs of this refurbishment.

Placement of the Tokeneke Bridge marker should be finalized during the spring of 2012, which will mark its 100th anniversary. When the bridge was demolished, this marker was removed and saved by our Commission and then First Selectman, Dave Campbell's efforts, and is being stored at Ring's End Lumber Yard. Karen and Dave Polett will check on this marker in the near future. Discussion about an appropriate placement on the grassy area near the Old White Bridge followed.

Commission members will again be soliciting sponsorships for Wreaths Across America this weekend. The wreath-laying ceremony will be held at noon at the Spring Grove Veteran's Cemetery in Darien on

Saturday, December 10. A simultaneous ceremony will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at that time.

Dave Polett reported that he had investigated the new reviewing stand platform. He mentioned www.brightsettings.com offered non-skid 4'x8' sections and we would need 2 sections costing about \$1744. total plus shipping for the 16" height. This platform comes with a back rail, stairs with railing and folds for storage. Each main section weighs about 96 pounds. More discussion is needed and Commissioners were encouraged to go to the website to see the platform as described. Chick wanted to be sure there were flagholders on the front of the platform.

Ken reminded members that the concrete base for the former mystery bell remains in the front of Town Hall. The bell itself, is stored in the Town garage, and was given to the Darien Historical Society by then First Selectman, Kerrigan.

Ken Reiss mentioned that Commission member, Marion Castell is recuperating from back surgery at The King Street Nursing Home in Port Chester. Karen will send a card from the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 on a motion by George Walsh, second by John Geoghegan. The next meeting will be held on December 13, 2011 at 3:30 PM.

Submitted by,

Karen Kreitzberger Polett

Secretary