

## **Monuments and Ceremonies Commission Meeting**

### **Minutes of the April 12, 2011 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Phil Kraft at 3:30 PM. Commissioners attending were: Marian Castell, Ed Carabillo, David Polett, Karen Polett, Ken Reiss, Bob Riith, Charles Scribner, and prospective member, Ann Penrose. Guests: Becky Siciliano represented the DAR and Officers Michael Cummings, Ray Osborne, and Court Isaac represented the Police.

The minutes of the March 8, meeting were accepted as read on a motion by Reiss, second D. Polett.

#### **Memorial Day Parade and Veterans Cemetery:**

Court explained that the cemetery plan will be completed in time for Memorial Day 2011. This date marks the 75th anniversary of the dedication of the original monument. Neilsens, Orchard Tree Company, landscape architect Leslie Macaulay Kroll are all working with this goal in mind. Pine trees have been pruned, deadfalls removed and stumps are being ground. Orchard Tree Company is awaiting permission from UI to remove another tree. Police Chief Lovello is investigating painting the flagpole and replacing the rope. If additional funding becomes available, granite benches with inscriptions from the monument are being considered. They will be placed at a distance, but surrounding the existing monument.

Officer Osborne asked about any changes from last year, and requests that we again provide vehicles participating in the Parade with a brightly colored permission slip so we can quickly identify these vehicles. A date will be selected at our next meeting to attend an onsite walk-through inspection at Good Wives Shopping Plaza prior to the Parade.

As was done last year, Parade vehicles will continue up the Post Road and marchers will turn onto Hecker Avenue.

Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, Linda Schwartz has offered to attend this dedication and has communicated with Phil about how pleased she is.

Marian offered to do advance publicity for the Parade and the re-dedication of the Karl Lang monument. Dave Polett will email additional info to Marian.

Karen Polett will call Springdale Florist for wreaths for both the Memorial Day Parade on May 30, and for the Boat Club ceremony on June 4. Bob Riith reported that the insurance forms and permissions have been mailed. Karen will remind Phil to contact the Park and Recreation Dept. to request the reviewing stand and the stage for the Parade. A letter will be sent from the Commission to the Lions Club Special Olympics requiring them to provide vehicles for participants not able to complete the Parade route. They have caused a major safety issue in past years.

Invitations and reminders were sent to Parade participants. Envelopes were stuffed by Commission members prior to the meeting. The flyover has been requested and confirmed. A bio is needed from Grand Marshall, Bill Flanagan so that we can write a press release and publicize his role. The Darien High School Band will play

patriotic music and the Tudor Singers will perform at the cemetery ceremony. Phil will contact the High School SOS group for additional support during the Parade staging. Chick will contact Scouts about reciting General Logan's Order and the Gettysburg Address. He will also get two students to serve as the Honor Guard at both the Reviewing Stand and the Stage in the cemetery. Chief Lovello will contact Karl Lang's grandson about speaking on Memorial Day. Discussion ensued about whether both the VFW and the Police Honor Guards would attend this ceremony and which would attend the ceremony at The Darien Boat Club. Dave offered to call Jim Baker to clarify this.

Division leaders this year will be 1. Kraft 2. Carabillo 3. Scribner 4. Riith. Becky will help with the Parade participants' placement and Marian and Karen will man the Registration Table. Dave will help with the lead off and correct order of participants at the beginning of the Parade near the Darien Historical Society.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM on a motion by Carabillo, second Reiss. The next meeting will be held on May 10, at 3:30 PM in Room 206 at the Darien Town Hall.

Submitted by,

Karen K. Polett

Secretary