

Monuments and Ceremonies Commission

Minutes of Meeting, September 6, 2011

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DARIEN CT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Phil Kraft at 3:35 PM with the following Commissioners present: Ed Carabillo, John Geoghegan, Phil Kraft, Dave Polett, Karen Polett, and George Walsh. The meeting was held in the auditorium of the Darien Town Hall.

Minutes of the June 14, meeting were accepted as read on a motion by Geoghegan; second by D. Polett.

Discussion of the 9/11 ceremony followed. Phil mentioned that Father Christopher Layton, a member of the Darien Clergy Association called him and will attend and give the Invocation. The remembrance ceremony will be held at the 9/11 monument located on the lawn behind the Middlesex Middle School and will begin before 8:30 AM and a moment of silence will be observed at 8:46 AM the time that the plane hit the first tower. Phil will obtain flags from the VFW; Karen has ordered 4 dozen roses and a wreath from Springdale Florist. She will pick these up on Saturday because the florist is not open early enough on Sunday. Phil has sent an article to the newspapers about this ceremony.

A motion to purchase 6 patriotic bunting to be donated to the Darien High School was made by Dave Polett; second Phil Kraft. These will be presented in honor of Donna Russo, recently retired Darien High School Assistant Principal and her stellar patriotic efforts to help our Commission and the Town of Darien. We will also purchase 6 bunting for our Commission's use in various ceremonies.

We need to discuss the collapsible reviewing stand mentioned in the June meeting and get an update from Bob Riith. Becky Siciliano volunteered to assist with this and we need a new platform for the 2012 Parade.

Wreaths Across America plans to cross through Massachusetts this year and may not be stopping in Darien. Their route has yet to be determined. Phil has not received his packet of order forms and Karen offered to check on this. Wreaths sponsorships are available for \$15.00 each. For every 2 wreaths ordered, 3 will be received.

John Geoghegan will be honored at the Stratford Airport on September 20, with the Master Pilot Award. Don Cavett, the bagpiper we asked to play at the Parade is back and working. He suffered a stroke prior to the Memorial Day Parade and was unable to participate. He wants to be included in next year's Parade.

Discussion about hats or armbands for the SOS students who helped in the Parade was mentioned so that they can be more easily recognized. We talked about sectioning off the Parade lineup so that two people have charge of each column of the Division and coordinate help at both ends of the lineup.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM on a motion by Ed Carabillo; second George Walsh.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Kreitzberger Polett

Secretary