



**TOWN of DARIEN**  
**MONUMENTS & CEREMONIES COMMISSION**  
Town Hall, 2 Renshaw Road, Darien, Connecticut 06820

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**Monuments and Ceremonies Commission Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 8, 2010**

Chairman, Phil Kraft called the meeting to order at 3:30 P.M. with the following Commission members present: Marian Castell, Kenneth Reiss, David Polett, Karen Polett and Charles Scribner. Gene Coyle, a liaison to the RTC was also in attendance.

Minutes of the May 11, meeting were approved on a motion by Castell, second by D. Polett.

Gene Coyle asked whether Karen Polett, Marian Castell, Charles Scribner and Phil Morehouse wished to remain on the Commission for another term. Marian, Karen and Chick answered in the affirmative and assured Gene that Phil Morehouse should also be reappointed as Chairman-Emeritus. Terms for these four members had expired in November, 2009. Phil Kraft, Ed Carabillo and Ken Reiss are appointed by the Democrats and vetted by the DRC. The Commission needs 4 additional members.

**Old Business:**

Phil mentioned that our portion of the expense of the flagpole at the Old Town Hall Homes had been paid for and that our storage room downstairs had been cleared out. Chick said that we have sufficient flags on hand for now.

**Parade**

Discussion followed and 1.the flyover did take place, but the plane is a smaller Lear 35; 2.a policeman is needed at the registration area to direct traffic inside the staging area for next year. Pedestrians dangerously crossing over to the staging area in front of cars need to be more carefully monitored; 3.signs worked well and fewer people tried to park in the shopping center lot; 4.it was difficult to hear the rendition of taps and the bugler needs to move closer to the cemetery ceremony when playing.

Commission members discussed and suggested that 1.a letter be written to the Lions explaining that their Special Olympics marchers cannot keep pace with the Parade and should ride in a vehicle. Golf carts were mentioned as possible transportation. They will not be invited to participate in the Parade as a marching unit next year. The entire group lagged behind in the Parade, and sadly two marchers had to be rescued by vehicles behind them. Ken offered to draft a letter to the Lions informing them of this. Letter will be reviewed at our September meeting.

*WE WILL REMEMBER THEM*

2. various Commission members suggested that people speaking at the cemetery ceremony practice pronouncing the names of the veterans from various wars so that family members present are not embarrassed. 3. the speaker, Michelle DeSoiza was excellent and presented a meaningful message for all. 4. Tudor Singers were a wonderful addition to the ceremony. 5. no wreath was sent from the State this year. Springdale Florist's was the only wreath. Karen has already written a thank you to Mickey Doyle for his continued support and donation of a wreath each year. 6. Darien Times did a superior job with the Parade coverage this year. They published the photos of the veterans, Parade directions and parking locations. A resolution to write a thank you to both the Darien Times and the Darien News was passed on a motion by D. Polett, second K. Reiss. 7. discussion followed about how to encourage more participation at the cemetery ceremony next year. The two papers might be asked to publish a photo from this year's cemetery ceremony with a caption reminding people to come. 8. Kevin Smith, manager of the Goodwives Stop and Shop had 6 employees pass out over a thousand bottles of water to spectators watching the Parade. A resolution to thank him was passed on a motion by K. Polett, second P. Kraft. The Stop and Shop manager was extremely cooperative and went above and beyond to help make the Parade a success this year and Commissioners felt that he should be recognized. 9. no wreath ceremony for the veterans who died at sea was conducted by the Darien Boat Club at their opening ceremonies. Phil will meet with this group this week and find out the particulars. 10. the Parade is being televised on Channel 79 this week. A DVD of the Parade will be given to Michelle DeSoiza, by Ken Reiss.

Other Business:

The tree and plaque at Allen O'Neill housing needs to be protected and moved if the current plan for a road through this area is finalized. The medallion and plaque located on the bridge to Jacob Street in Rowayton will also have to be preserved if the bridge is removed.

Representative, Jim Himes is coming to the VFW at 9:30 A.M. on Flag Day, Monday, June 14, and veterans are encouraged to attend this informative session.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 14. Plans for the September 11, Memorial Service will be done via emails and held on Saturday, September 11, at 8:30 A.M. at Middlesex School.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen K. Polett

Secretary