

Monuments and Ceremonies Commission Meeting

Tuesday, November 9, 2010

Chairman Phil Kraft called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM with the following members present: Edward Carabillo, John Geoghegan (visiting), David and Karen Polett, Ken Reiss, Bob Riith, Charles Scribner, and George Walsh. Also joining the meeting were Darien High School Assistant Principal, Donna Russo, and interested resident, Valerie Oertel.

Minutes of the October 12, 2010 meeting were approved on a motion by Scribner; second D. Polett

Old Business:

Trees at the 9-11 Monument have been replaced at a cost of \$622.00 which was paid for by the Middle School. A fund was left with the Middle School by Josh Doying, the student who conceived of and brought the 9/11 Monument to fruition. Phil Kraft said, landscaper Wayne Riedel selected, purchased, transported and planted two identical red maple trees at the monument site located behind the Darien Middle School. These trees symbolize the Twin Towers and should be of equal size.

Our flags and bunting are still stored in the hallway of the Town Hall according to Charles Scribner who spoke to Pat D'Arinzo from Darien Public Works. As we mentioned to First Selectman David Campbell, at our last meeting, a more secure location is needed.

Flags at the Senior Center need to be replaced. Phil reminded members that Fabricare will clean flags free of charge, if it is determined that they need it.

Plantings at the Darien Spring Grove Cemetery last Sunday went well and Darien policemen, firefighters, veterans and scouts planted daffodil bulbs, ground cover, boxwoods and generally cleared the cemetery monument. Dennis Smith illuminated the flagpole at the cemetery. The media covered this event in the local newspapers.

Phil Kraft mentioned that he had an inquiry about who maintains the various local cemeteries around the town. After discussion, our Commission assumes that the Darien Public Works is responsible for the upkeep when an active cemetery association does not exist.

The Darien Fire Department would like to sponsor a town-wide old/damaged flag disposal ceremony on January 8th. This will be held behind the Darien fire Department.

A Veteran's Day ceremony is scheduled for 11:00 AM on Thursday, November 11, at the Veteran's Memorial Circle at the Darien Town Hall. The ceremony, conducted by Phil Kraft will be broadcast to Darien Schools on Channel 79. Floral tributes for Veteran's Day have been donated by Springdale Florist. Donna Russo described the many veteran related activities planned for November 11, at the

Darien High School. The entire day will be devoted to veteran events. (See attached Activity Schedule)
She invited veterans to attend the 8:00 AM flag raising ceremony at the High School on Veteran's Day.

New Business:

The Wreaths Across America contingent will arrive at the Darien VFW on Noroton Avenue at approximately 3:00 PM on December 8, and will conduct a wreath presentation ceremony at the Darien Town Hall at about 3:30 PM that day. Due to traffic and weather conditions, times are approximate. Karen and Morrill Worcester and the wreath entourage will be honored at a dinner at 6:00 PM at the Darien VFW Post #6933. Five area Masonic Lodges have contributed money to this event and local officials have been invited to attend. DAR members, Karen Polett and Rebecca Siciliano collected money for these wreath sponsorships at Palmers Market last Saturday and will collect again on November 13. Commission members were encouraged to purchase wreaths.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM on a motion by Carabillo; second D. Polett. Next meeting planned for 3:30 PM on Tuesday, December 14, 2010.

Submitted by,

Karen Polett

Secretary