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**Monuments and Ceremonies Commission
Minutes of March 10, 2009**

Chairman Phil Kraft called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM. Commissioners in attendance were: Kraft, Carabillo, Geoghegan, Morehouse, Reiss, Riith, Scribner, Walsh. The minutes of the February 10 meeting were accepted without change upon a motion by Ed Carabillo, second by John Geoghegan.

The following reports were offered regarding the 2009 Memorial Day **Parade and Ceremonies**:

Bob Riith reported that permission letters had been written and were ready to be sent.

Chairman Phil Kraft distributed copies of the parade contact list and asked members to review names of recipients for accuracy.

Chairman Kraft reported that he had gotten biographical data from Grand Marshal Mickey Doyle.

Chairman Kraft distributed copies of a sample letter that will be sent to parade participants. He noted that a change in parade positions would be highlighted, as would a new statement asking groups with marching children to have a responsible adult in place at the assembly area before children arrive, in order to reduce the number of parents lingering in the dropoff area. Members of the commission will meet at Kraft's office on Wednesday, March 18 at 1:30 to process the mailing of invitations to groups participating in the parade.

The following actions were taken regarding the ceremony at the Veterans' Cemetery:

Speaker: Motion was made by Reiss and seconded by Riith that Connecticut State Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Linda Schwartz be invited to speak; if she does not accept, the invitation will be made to First Selectwoman Evonne Klein; if she does not accept, the invitation will be issued

to Josephine Velasquez. Chairman Kraft will contact Commissioner Schwartz.

Bell: It was decided to change the practice of ringing the bell after the name of every man who gave his life, but instead to ring the bell three times at the conclusion of the list for each of the wars.

Clergy: Phil Kraft will invite Reverend Gibson to participate in the ceremony. Kraft and Ed Carabillo will also invite Msgr. McGrath from St. John's.

There will be a firing squad from the VFW at this year's ceremony. The Tudor Singers will be invited to participate in lieu of the High School band.

Other Reports:

Showcase: John Geoghegan has informed the Red Cross that they will have to make way for the High School art exhibit beginning April 15, but will be able to resume using the showcase at the conclusion of that exhibit.

Replacement shelves were obtained free of charge.

World War II Veterans' Program: Chairman Kraft has heard from 34 Veterans who wish to participate.

Members: Several members are still awaiting reappointment to the Commission, and there are four vacancies. Phil Morehouse offered to make an announcement at the senior Men's meeting on Wednesday the 11th. It was suggested that we review the former policy of asking various relevant groups in town to furnish a delegate to the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 upon motion by Ed Carabillo, seconded by John Geoghegan. Next meeting will be Tuesday, April 14 at 3:30.

submitted by Ken Reiss

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