

## **Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Monuments and Ceremonies Commission**

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 PM by Chairman, Phil Kraft with the following Commissioners present: Terry Gaffney, Roland Holub, Phil Kraft, David Polett, Karen Polett, Ken Reiss, Rebecca Siciliano, and George Walsh. The minutes of the January 12, 2016 meeting were accepted on a motion by George Walsh; second Roland Holub.

The OTH flagpole and monument with plaques attached were discussed with Jan Raymond, a representative of the Darien Housing Authority present. One option discussed included removing the flagpole, saving the eagle from the top of the pole, and moving the entire monument base and plaques to the property of the VFW on Noroton Avenue at the Housing Authority's expense. Another idea was to cap the flagpole and leave the monument and plaques at their present location as is. Ms Raymond asked about removing the plaques and obtaining another similar stone monument and putting that in place with the plaques at the VFW location. According to Ms Raymond, at present, the Housing Authority has no plans for this monument. However, they are in the preliminary planning stage. Our Commission stressed the fact that we do not want this monument to disappear and Ms Raymond assured us that it would not.

David Polett read the minutes of the August 2, 2001 Meeting of the Monuments and Ceremonies Commission which mentioned the town's right to maintain this OTH monument, flagpole and plaques. He also read the Monument Guidelines approved by our Commission on 07/11/2000, and subsequently accepted by the Town of Darien.

Ken Reiss has located the missing murals. They are mounted on 1/8 inch masonite and located in the Selectmen's closet. Ken mentioned that Pat D'Arinzo from Public Works had been most helpful in finding these murals. Ken will write a thank you to Pat. The Historical Society is interested in borrowing these murals for their upcoming exhibit on Art and Design in Darien. The M&C Commission members agreed that although the Town Hall murals may not fit the description of a Monument, they are certainly publicly owned antiquities with both historic and aesthetic value, and should be inventoried, treasured and carefully preserved.

Phil Kraft offered to ask Sara Franzese whether she needs a new Memorial Day Parade Co-Chairman since Kate Kuras has resigned. Terry Gaffney reported that he has not heard from teachers about the Memorial Day Essays. On a motion by Phil Kraft, second Roland, the Constitution Month Good Wife's River Chapter DAR display case application for September was approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM on a motion by Rebecca; second Karen. Next M&C Meeting is scheduled for 3:30 PM on March 8, 2016 in Room 206.

Submitted by,

Karen Kreitzberger Polett,  
Secretary, Monuments and Ceremonies Commission