



Town of Darien Monuments and Ceremonies Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
April 11, 2023

Tuesday Chairman Sueann Schorr called the meeting to order at 3:34 PM.

Roll call: Terrie Wood, Sueann Schorr, and Nanci Natale, Isabel Negrón and Autumn Howard. Terry Gaffney was present by phone as Memorial Day Parade Chairman.

- 1) **Minutes:** The February Minutes were read and corrected, then both February and March Minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously.
- 2) **Commission Staffing:** James Demark has identified two possible Republican candidates who could join as non-voting members. Terrie Wood has identified a Democrat candidate who is proceeding with the application.
- 3) **Chairperson Report:** Rob Hulick and Karen Pollett have, through substantial effort, received approval from The State of Connecticut to move the tombstone for Emma Bingham to Noroton River Cemetery. After more than 50 years, the headstone was found at Milford's storage shed. It was in perfect condition and was placed on a new foot stone in the children's section of the cemetery.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report:** The Town of Darien is reviewing the proposed budget. **Received reimbursement grant via state \$5K** for specific work to be covered in 4 cemeteries. Rob Hulick will work with the Town to find out what funds will be used for, work will be done by Town maintenance dept.
- 5) **Town Hall Display Case:** The Town is displaying historical documents for this month.
- 6) **Veteran's Street Sign Program:** Terry Gaffney has started the work required for the next selection. He is reviewing candidates and will have a

recommendation for the dedication around Memorial Day depending on availability of family members of the honoree.

7) Memorial Day Parade: Terry Gaffney needs a person to work with him on the parade. Terrie Wood is helping to find such candidates. The fly-over, National guard marchers, insurance applications and The Goodwives contract are all underway. DAF and Channel 79 are working on broadcast alternatives. Speaker and Grand Marshall candidates were reviewed and voted on. Results of voting will be announced in the next parade press release.

8) Declaration Day Program July 4th 2023: Terrie Wood and Jayme Stevenson are co-ordinating this program 9:30 AM with ThePush/Pull Parade at 10:30 AM. The cost of the program has been substantially underwritten by donations.

The program will be:

- Singing of the America The Beautiful
- Welcome speech by Susan Schorr and Monica McNally
- Raising of the American Flag and the Star Bangled Banner
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Reading of names of Darien students at the military academies
- reading of the names of Revolutionary War Patriots from Darien
- Select readings from the Declaration of Independence
- Closing Remarks
- Closing Song God Bless America

9) Flag Day June 14th: This program will occur at the end of the day when the flag is lowered. A collection of old flags will happen for proper disposal.

10) New Business: No new business was brought forward.

11) Close of Meeting: A motion and second was made to close the meeting at 4:17.