



**Town of Darien Monuments and Ceremonies Commission**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday May 9th, 2023**

Chairman Sueann Schorr called the meeting to order at 3:36 PM. Roll call: Jim Demark, Autumn Howard, Nanci Natale, and Terrie Wood were present. Others present were : Terry Gaffney, Chair of Memorial Day Parade Committee and Georgia Von Schmidt.

- 1) **Minutes:** The April Minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously.
- 2) **Commission Staffing:** There is still be one opening which needs to be filled by a Democrat, Independent or unaffiliated person. Jim Demark has initiated the process for J.P. Perlman to replace J. Long whose term has expired.
- 3) **Chairman's Report:** The June 9th meeting will be held in Room 119. M&C's budget is waiting approval from The Town Of Darien. Jim Demark will stand-in for Sueann Schorr at the Flag Day ceremony at 5 PM on June 14th. Terry Gaffney will be the Master of Ceremonies. Others invited include the DAR, VFW, Darien Police, Boy and Girl Scouts, and students from the public schools.
- 4) **Display Case:**The M&C Commission will take the case for May. The Declaration Day Ceremony will use it in June. July will be the Reenactment of the Heritage Trail. August is open and the September display is the DAR for the Constitution celebration and November 1 -12th for Veterans' Day.
- 5) **Cemetery Committee:** New sign will be installed at Weed Cemetery #1. Weed Cemetery #2 has over 100 graves and existed since the mid 1700s. However, it has access issues. Ms Von Schmidt requests that it be cleaned up. She is to meet with Jed Lawrence and Jim Demark. Christine and Joe Calve (203-772-1188) live on the street and will assist. There is an issue with funding as the Committee does not have unlimited funding to care for the sites.

- 6) Memorial Day Parade:** Darien's Parade can be dated back to 1881. Terry Gaffney has started the work required for the parade. Over 100 invitations are being sent out to the appropriate organizations. So far 38 have accepted, 15 refused, and 51 have not yet responded. A vote was held for the Grand Marshall and Keynote Speaker. The individuals are Mr. Bruce Kinloch as Grand Marshall and Kevin Callahan as the Keynote Speaker. The parade will be live streamed on and be available on Channel 79. Members of the Commission will volunteer and help to prepare for the parade at 6 PM at Spring Grove Cemetery and Goodwives Shopping Center.
  
- 7) July 4Th Celebration:** Terrie Wood and Jamie Stevenson have developed a program for this event. The event should be occur at 9:30 AM at the Darien High School Courtyard. There will be music, speeches and a fire truck displaying an American flag. The Committee will issue a press release to identify veterans living in Darien to list them in a display.
  
- 8) New Business:** Being no new business a motion was made and passed to close the meeting at 4:52.