

Meeting of Monuments & Ceremonies Commission

October 10, 2023

Darien Town Hall, Room 119

In Attendance: Sueann Schorr, Isabel Negron, Nanci Natale, Terrie Wood, James DeMark, Susan Shannon, Autumn Howard.

The meeting started at 3:30 PM.

Vote on the September Minutes – accepted.

Nanci Natale to be Secretary of Monuments & Ceremonies Commission.

Declaration Day

- Terrie Wood suggested that Jayme Stephenson should also be credited for her help with the Declaration Day event. All agreed.

Cemetery Committee

- Rob Hulick was unable to attend but later sent an email re: update on cemeteries and budgets. Jim DeMark received a detailed by-location budget from Family Landscaping to maintain cemeteries that M&C is responsible for, through end-of-year 2023.
- Rob put a budget together (available funds) and is scheduling a call with Ed Gentile (DPW) to explore State Cemeteries Grants for maintenance activities. The State gave Darien an additional \$5K. A meeting will be set up with Ed to maybe eliminate a couple of cemeteries so Darien will pay for some.

Veterans Day – Saturday November 11th at 11:00 AM-Town Hall Courtyard

- Sueann Schorr suggested a brief meeting (like with 9/11) for organizational purposes. It was agreed that the group (Sueann Schorr, Susan Shannon, Autumn Howard, Isabel Negron and Nanci Natale) will meet on Monday, October 16th, at 4:00 PM (Nero Café) to discuss what needs to be done. Emily Koch will attend via Zoom.

Street Sign Program

- Susan Schorr, Chair – Lucy West is working with Susan – she has names to work on – we need copies for the Group to review.

Display Case Committee

- Karen Pollett will have Wreaths Across America displayed for December. Marli Hayes (Town Social Media person) is the contact for details on getting information circulated about M&C, possibly with a link for citizens to purchase a wreath for the cemetery. Wreaths will be laid out on December 16th in Spring Grove Cemetery. A suggestion was made to get the Boy Scouts involved in the placing of the wreaths. Also, get a list of students attending schools with military programs to help as well?
- Vige Droesch-Darien's Good Wife's River Chapter, Inc. (DAR) came to the meeting to speak about her October display honoring First Responders (Police, Firefighters, EMS...) She would like to get a logo to include, from one of the First Responders groups. The actual celebration date is October 28th. Vige will speak with Linda O'Leary for a photo with Monica. An application has been submitted and received, and she is confirmed for October.

- It was suggested that we contact Scott Vanderheyden (VFW) for ideas he may have for the case in November.
- Nanci handed out a spreadsheet (copy to Linda O’Leary) covering how the display case will be used for the remainder of 2023.

New Business

- In looking for ways to inform people about M&C and what we do, Jim DeMark and Terrie Wood will contact Darien Magazine (Darienmagazine.com) about doing a piece on us. It was suggested they interview Terry Gaffney as part of this.
- Ox Ridge School is celebrating Veterans Day on Thursday November 9th. Any student’s parents or grandparents are welcome to attend and speak about their military service. Schedule is as follows: 8:30 – 9:30 AM Breakfast/social and 9:30-10:30 AM Program, singing, Q&A with veterans etc.

..... Called for adjournment, all seconded. The meeting adjourned at .