

Minutes of May 12, 2015

Monuments and Ceremonies Commission

Commissioners present: Terry Gaffney, Rebecca Siciliano, Ken Reiss, Charles Scribner, Phil Kraft, Dave Polett, Sueann Schorr, George Walsh, Karen Polett.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Phil Kraft at 3:30 PM. Minutes of the April 14, 2015 meeting were accepted as read on a motion by George; second Dave.

Memorial Day Cemetery Ceremony plans were finalized. Audio, podium, Tudor Singers, case of water, printing of program will be taken care of by Phil. Audio will be paid the same as last year. Noroton Presbyterian Pastor, Brandi Drake will give both the Invocation and Benediction.

Dave, Phil, Terry, Ken, Rollie and Dawn volunteered to help with the bunting and set up arrangements in the cemetery prior to the Parade. Noroton Heights Fire Department rep notified Karen that they will bring the bell and chairs for the cemetery platform this year. Karen sent invitations to the Selectmen and she reported that all five will be attending the Parade, reviewing stand and the cemetery ceremony. Other officials invited include Wood, Duff, Leone, Blumenthal, Himes, and Murphy. All Volunteer Fire Chiefs from all Darien Fire Departments and the Chief of Police were also invited by Linda O'Leary in the First Selectmen's Office. It was suggested that we also ask Linda to issue an invitation to participate in the Parade and Cemetery Ceremony to a representative of Post 53.

Terry asked for volunteers to read and judge the Middle School Essays about "What Memorial Day Means to Me." The High School is not participating this year. We will ask the two Middle School winners to read their essays at the cemetery ceremony.

Chris Pintauro has agreed to be this year's Memorial Day Speaker and Karen has written his bio and sent it to the Darien News, The Darien Times and The Darien Daily Voice. Chris approved the article. Terry provided an article inviting townsfolk to attend the Parade and Cemetery Ceremony and Karen will send that to the media tomorrow. Terry and Chick will obtain the names of the Boy Scouts and Sueann will get the name of the Girl Scouts participating this year as honor guard, readers of General Logan's Orders and the Gettysburg Address.

Chick reported that he knows there are three boxes of bunting in the storage room and will retrieve it. He also has the stands, flags, and poles for the cemetery flags. He noted that he has 637 flags for the cemetery. This is in addition to what the State will send to us on May 18th or 19th. State Flags will be picked up on May 27th this year.

A display case application from Darien' Good Wife's River Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter Regent, Katherine Love for September 1-30, 2015 was unanimously approved. It is Constitution Week and also the 125th anniversary of the founding of the NSDAR. Karen also mentioned that the DAR marker to be placed in Veteran's Circle in front of the Darien Town Hall received approval from the National Society DAR. Fundraising for this marker will begin soon.

Karen reported that she had ordered the wreath for the Memorial Day Ceremony from Springdale Florist and requested that the Commission pay for this, rather than taking donations of floral arrangements from Springdale Florist year after year. M&C has a budget for this sort of expense.

Rollie Holub offered a report in absentia noting that Joe Holmes will drive the Grand Marshal, Eugene Coyle. Rollie also contacted and obtained the Memorial Day Speaker and contacted Noroton Heights Fire Department about the chairs. Phil ordered 10 Grand Marshal sashes and obtained 10 rosettes with the Town of Darien seal from Clark's trophies.

Ken had old photos of previous Memorial Day Parades which will be placed in the lobby display case. He also had photos of the missing WPA murals which we hope are in the storage room or in the Town garage. Their whereabouts have to be investigated. Ken asked about Darien veterans buried in Darien and Phil suggested that Ken research this topic and give his report as a speaker for the 2016 cemetery ceremony.

Meeting was adjourned on a motion by George Walsh, second Dave. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at 3:30 PM in Room 206 of the Darien Town Hall.

Submitted by,

Karen Kreitzberger Polett
Secretary, M&C Commission

