

Draft

Minutes of the May 14, 2013 Monuments and Ceremonies Commission Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 3:30PM by Chairman Phil Kraft. Commissioners present were: Ken Reiss, John Geoghegan, George Walsh, Chick Scribner, David Polett, Karen Polett, Rollie Holub, Becky Siciliano, Ed Carabillo, Dawn Crouch, Terry Gaffney, Sueann Shorr, and Ian Konecke. Sara Franzese and Kate Kuras from the Parade Committee were also in attendance.

Minutes from the April 9, 2013 meeting were reviewed and John Geoghegan mentioned a correction regarding the clergy for the invocation and benediction. Marc Orr has agreed to perform the invocation. Monsignor McGrath will do the benediction. Amended minutes were passed on a unanimous vote after a motion by Polett, seconded by Holub.

New member, Ian Konecke was welcomed and Becky Siciliano was congratulated on her 6 month appointment to complete Phil Morehouse's unexpired term.

Parade Committee Chair Sara Franzese reported on the progress of the Parade

Committee: They met with Darien Police Department Captain, Gary Pavia at Goodwives today.

1. Lineup is complete, 2. Winning Posters/Coloring Contest done by a 5 year old and a 7 year old will be produced at Kinkos for display around town, to reward the winners and encourage participation. 3. Parade rules, maps ready. 4. Phil's bio ready for newspaper. 5. Flyover confirmed. 6. Division leaders needed and several Commissioners volunteered. 7. Insurance needed for new location of reviewing stand. 8. Tudor singers will perform at the Cemetery. 9. Several people needed at the Registration Desk. 10. Chick reported that Scouts will place flags on veterans' graves at the Spring Grove Veteran's Cemetery on May 22. 11. Patriot Brass Ensemble will play on the dais in the cemetery, after they complete their marching in the Parade with the Masonic Lodge. 12. Committee is still waiting for a confirmation from the National Guard.

Essay Contest: Terry Gaffney received 27 Essays from the Darien Middle Schoolers and 22 from High School students. Ken Reiss, Rollie Holub and Terry will read the essays to determine the essays to be read on Memorial Day, and contact the media with copies and names of student authors. A Letter to the Editor thanking all 49 students who participated will be sent to the newspapers after Memorial Day. A photo of the winners with Grand Marshall, Phil Kraft will be arranged for local newspapers and Darien Patch. Commissions thanked Terry for his fortitude and perseverance in obtaining these essays.

On a motion by Terry Gaffney, second Rollie Holub, the expenditure of \$600.00 to pay Chris Andrade for the sound equipment for the Memorial Day cemetery ceremony was approved. Prior to the Parade at 7:30 AM, Commissioners will again gather at the cemetery to hang the bunting and place flags on the platform and on the reviewing stand on the Post Road. The wreath donated by Springdale Florist will be delivered to the Darien Police Station before 9AM on May 27.

It is hoped that the reviewing stand and cemetery platform can be erected in a timely manner. Phil reminded us that although it is Park and Rec's busy season, Memorial Day is a time for us, as a grateful nation to remember and honor our war dead.

On a motion by Sue, second Terry, the expenditure of \$35.00 was approved to purchase 4 walkie talkies for use of the Parade Committee during the Parade. The ones we have no longer work.

Our Speaker Louis J. DiGiusto III, was not with us today but through George Walsh he will be told he is expected at the staging area (Goodwives River Shopping Center).

The Star Spangled Banner will not be played by the Darien High School Band this year. The Tudor Singers will sing it.

Monument Inventory will be presented at the June 11, Commission meeting. No Commission meetings in July or August.

Flag Day Ceremony will be conducted at 6:30 PM on June 14, at the Veteran's Circle in the front of the Darien Town Hall. Karen will contact Phil before obtaining the wreaths and flowers. Publicity inviting townfolk to this ceremony is needed. Mention should also be made that old flags to be discarded should be brought to the Darien Town Hall or to the VFW any day after 2 PM. Scouts who may participate in the ceremony also need to be contacted.

On a motion by Ed Carabillo, second Becky Siciliano the meeting was adjourned at 4.40 PM. The next meeting will be held at 3:30 PM on Tuesday, June 11, 2013 in Room 206 at the Darien Town Hall.

Submitted by,

Karen Kreitzberger Polett

Secretary