

Monuments and Ceremonies Commission Meeting Minutes January 10, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 PM by Chairman, Phil Kraft with the following Commissioners present: John Geoghehan, Dave Polett, Karen Polett, Ken Reiss, and Charles Scribner.

Minutes of the December 13, 2011 meeting were accepted on a motion by Ken Reiss, second Dave Polett.

First Selectman, Jayme Stevenson joined us. Phil passed out an extensive "To Do List for the Memorial Day Parade" and noted that this event has become a real logistical burden considering the age and health of some Commissioners. We presently have 9 members and according to our Charter, we should have 15. Jayme suggested we try contacting the media and hoped perhaps a newspaper interview with Phil might generate some interest and recruit volunteers for our Commission from a younger segment of the population in the Darien community.

On January 31, at 1:30 PM, Dave Polett, Ken Reiss and Phil Kraft will work on a letter to Parade participants and present this letter to our Commission at our February 7, 2012 meeting.

Discussion followed about a sub-committee of our Commission being charged with only putting on the Memorial Day Parade. Their charge would have a very limited time frame and could be comprised of a totally different membership. Our Commission presently commemorates Veteran's Day, September 11, Flag Day, and the Memorial Day Cemetery ceremony, and helps with the Darien Boat Club's Marine ceremony. In addition, we keep abreast of the condition of all monuments in the town of Darien.

Commissioners also mentioned placing the Tokeneke Bridge plaque back on the grassy area near where the old bridge was demolished. The plaque will be 100 years old this year and all agreed that it would be an appropriate time to re-dedicate it. Discussion followed.

Dave Polett mentioned the Parade reviewing stand being considered for purchase by our Commission, and noted that many organizations other than ours might want to use this platform. Dave offered to talk to Park and Recreation Department about storage for this platform. Our Commission would appreciate the town purchasing this platform.

We continue to be hopeful that we might obtain more bands for the Memorial Day Parade. It was determined on a motion by Ken Reiss, second Scribner that the 2012 Parade be dedicated to our former member and first Chairman, Phil Morehouse and that Phil Kraft will be the Grand Marshall.

Scouts will take the wreaths off the graves at Spring Grove Veterans' Cemetery during the last week of January or the first week of February, weather permitting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM on a motion by Charles Scribner, second David Polett. Next meeting will be held at 3:30 PM in Room 206 on February 7, 2012.

Submitted by,

Karen K. Polett, Secretary