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Monuments and Ceremonies Commission Meeting Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Chairman, Phil Kraft called the meeting to order at 3:45 PM with the following Commissioners present: David Polett, Karen Polett, Ken Reiss, Bob Riith, and Charles Scribner. Valerie Oertel and Ann Penrose also attended.

Minutes of the January 11, 2011 meeting were approved as read on a motion by Ken Reiss, second Dave Polett.

Phil Kraft noted that he had sent out letters asking 2011 Memorial Day Parade participants to attend today's meeting. Only Ann Penrose representing the DAR attended. Discussion ensued about again inviting Parade participants to the March 8, Monuments and Ceremonies Commission meeting after placing an article in the local newspapers reminding participants to attend. Phil will meet with Valerie to discuss calling individual participants. Commission members were very disappointed in the apparent lack of support for the Parade.

Dave Polett volunteered to invite Jim Baker to the March Monuments meeting and Dave will also email or call Court Isaac to ask him if the Police wanted to coordinate the re-dedication of the Spring Grove Veteran's refurbished statue and plantings with our Memorial Day Parade. We could have the re-dedication during the Memorial Day ceremony since it is the 75th anniversary of the original dedication of the statue and also the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War.

Dave also volunteered to call Donna Russo at the HS to see if a student might gain some community service by teaching Phil Kraft how to use Excel.

Phil will contact Pam Zago and her Support Our Soldiers group at the Darien High School to see if they could help us facilitate and monitor the smooth running of the 2011 Memorial Day Parade.

Karen mentioned that she had spoken to Jake Kara at the Darien Times Newspaper and to Jenny Schwartz of the Darien Housing Authority about preserving the Fitch Monuments and transplanting the oak tree (obtained from Little Round Top at Gettysburg) once the Allen- O'Neill Housing project moves forward. Jenny assured Karen that both the tree and the several monuments would be preserved and moved to a central place in the housing plan. Karen volunteered to contact the Lang relative, Kim Farrington who emailed Phil last year if the Monument sculpted by Karl Lang is in fact going to be re-dedicated this Memorial Day. Perhaps a relative of the sculptor might be considered as a speaker. We also need to think about selection of a Grand Marshal for the 2011 Parade.

Ann Penrose expressed an interest in becoming a member of our Commission and Valerie Oertel is also considering joining us. Meeting adjourned on a motion by Ken Reiss, second Charles Scribner. Next meeting will be held at 3:30 PM in Room 201 on March 8, 2011.

Submitted by,

Phillip Kraft, chairman 3/8/11

for Karen K. Polett, Secretary