

Monuments and Ceremonies Commission Meeting

Tuesday, October 12, 2010

Chairman Phil Kraft called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM with the following Commissioners present: Marian Castell, Edward Carabillo, David and Karen Polett, Bob Riith and George Walsh. Minutes of the September 14, 2010 meeting were accepted as read on a motion by D. Polett; second Riith.

Phil reported that Commission member, Charles Scribner has two prospective candidates for membership on our Commission. Our commission needs at least five more members.

First Selectman, David Campbell joined the meeting when the storage of our flags, minutes etc. was discussed. Our file cabinet, flags, stationery, etc are currently packed in the hallway of the Town Hall basement. They were removed from our storage room and are now easily accessible to anyone passing through. Mr. Campbell assured us that he would find a secure location for our materials.

Campbell also said that he hopes the the Old White Bridge tablet (see minutes of 9/14/10 meeting and Darien Times Newspaper article) can be removed, but somehow rebuilt and retained in its present location on the current bridge marking the boundary of Norwalk and Darien. Campbell also agreed to make an official Proclamation commemorating Veteran's Day 2010.

Veteran's Day will be celebrated on November 11, at 11:00 AM at the Veteran's Circle at the Darien Town Hall. Karen will call Springdale Florist for the necessary floral tributes. Phil will contact Jim Cameron and the new Supt. of Schools Falcone about providing the live feed on the educational Channel 78 to the schools to commemorate Veteran's Day. Phil mentioned that there is an impressive flag ceremony at 8AM at the High School on Veteran's Day.

Marian agreed to speak to Sarah Ungemack about replacing the tree at the 9/11 monument so that the two trees symbolizing the twin towers are of matching size. Marian will get an estimate on two new trees and moving the old tree elsewhere and/or purchasing a tree to match the one Sugar Maple already thriving in place. Discussion about the Oak tree obtained from Gettysburg and planted by our Commission in 1992 at the monument to the former Fitch Home continued. We would like to move and preserve that tree if possible when and if construction begins on the new housing project.

Campbell agreed to be present at the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Darien Town Hall on Wednesday, December 8, 2010. Our Commission will be sending letters to the Selectmen, local officials, etc. to invite them to the Wreaths Across America events. Phil Kraft is the wreath contact person for the Spring Grove Veteran's Cemetery in Darien, and soon we will need to begin selling the wreaths, publicizing the events etc. Dave Polett reported that 5 Masonic groups (Ivanhoe Lodge in Darien , Masonic Club of Darien, Harmony Lodge in New Canaan, Union Lodge in Stamford, and Acacia Lodge in Greenwich) are sponsoring the dinner for the wreath contingent from Maine at the VFW this year on December 8. The wreath laying ceremony will be held at noon at the Darien Spring Grove Veteran's Cemetery on Saturday, December 11, and simultaneously in 350 cemeteries around the world this year when the Worcester Wreath Company will be placing 19,000 wreaths. Phil will make wreath order form copies for Karen to distribute to the 5 Town DAR meeting on October 14.

Final plans for the wreaths will be discussed at our November 9, meeting and plans to invite various Parade participants to a meeting in January will be finalized at our December 14, meeting. At that time, we hope to

form a sub-committee to help our Commission with the 2011 Memorial Day Parade. We will solicit input from the representatives of groups in attendance.

George Walsh noted the impressive Scouting exhibit in the Town Hall display case. Meeting was adjourned on a motion by Ed Carabillo, second Riith.

Submitted,

Karen Kreitzberger Polett

Secretary