

Minutes of the January 12, 2016 Monuments and Ceremonies Commission

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Phil Kraft at 3:32 PM with the following Commissioners present: Phillip Kraft, George Walsh, Rebecca Siciliano, Ken Reiss, David Polett, Karen Kreitzberger Polett, Terry Gaffney, Charles Scribner, Roland Holub, and Sueann Schorr. On a motion by David Polett, second George Walsh the minutes of the December 8, 2015 M&C meeting were accepted.

Discussion about the OTH flagpole and plaques followed in anticipation of the February 9, M&C meeting when a Representative from the Darien Housing Authority and First Selectman, Jayme Stevenson will attend. Several alternatives were suggested. One option mentioned was that without incurring any cost, the VFW would accept the stone and plaques with the flagpole capped and relocated to and installed on the VFW property on Noroton Avenue. Several other options were also discussed.

Ken Reiss suggested a thorough inventory of the Town Hall murals be done by artist. He is currently searching for the missing mural panels which were stored in a room designated for our Commission in the basement of the Darien Town Hall. He noted the historical significance and value of these murals. Commissioners felt a framed plaque listing a description of the scene with a brief bio of the artist including the date painted could be hung near each mural. Terry said that he had already inventoried the murals and will send this inventory to Ken, who has his own inventory with photos of each mural.

Terry distributed an impressive list of 56 Monuments (including the Town Hall and Holmes School murals, memorial gardens, a quilt and benches, etc) to Commission members. He catalogued Monuments on both public and private property. List is attached. Terry will work with Sueann whose daughter started a Darien Monument Inventory as a Girl Scout project. This combined project when edited may be suitable for a Darien Town Monuments website.

Phil spoke to Brian O'Malley who has agreed to serve as the Memorial Day 2016 Speaker.

Charles and Phil mentioned that wreaths from Wreaths Across America will be removed to the end of each row on January 30, by the Boy Scout Troop 35 and the cemetery landscaper will dispose of them.

George Walsh suggested that a token red, white and blue ribbon or a button could be given to people attending the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Spring Grove Veterans Cemetery. All commissions liked this idea and will investigate designs and costs.

Several Commissioners noted the removal of our flag and the damage done to the flag that replaced ours on the Noroton Avenue overpass. A large #12 was cut into the flag and hung on the overpass.

Submitted by,
Karen Kreitzberger Polett, Secretary

