

Town of Winchester
Soldiers' Monument Commission

P.O. Box 322 • Winsted, CT 06098 • www.SoldiersMonumentWinsted.org

Mission Statement

The commission recognizes the historical importance and aesthetic value of the Soldiers' Monument, a symbolic icon of the town of Winchester. Our mission is to protect, preserve, and enhance this nationally-recognized landmark while providing a clean and safe park for all residents and visitors.

MINUTES
For the Monthly Meeting
April 6, 2016

Held in the third-floor conference room, Winchester Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Steven Silvester – Chairmen
Virginia Shultz - Charette- Vice Chairmen
Sheila Sedlack - Secretary
John Schwaikert – Treasurer

Jack Bourque
Doug Werner
Noreen Marchand
Deborah Kessler
Lynn Kessler

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:03 P.M. by Virginia Shultz-Charette, Vice Chairmen.

2. Roll Call

Jack Bourque, Sheila Sedlack, Noreen Marchand, Virginia Shultz-Charette, Deborah Kessler, Lynn Kessler
Absent: Steven Silvester, Doug Werner, John Schwaikert

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approval of Secretary's Minutes

Not available for review.

5. Approval of Treasurer's Report

Steve Silvester provided a Treasurer's Report for review via email. It did not provide any information regarding the petty cash fund. According to an email from John Schwaikert earlier in the day, there is \$201.00 in petty cash at present. Discussion arose as to whether any money may be transferred from the Maintenance of Structure item to provide for a sound system to be used at future events sponsored by the Commission. There was uncertainty as to whether that had been voted on at a prior meeting. Virginia's attendance at an upcoming conference is to be paid using petty cash.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Lynn Kessler. Sheila Sedlack seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

6. Communications

None

7. Old Business

Memorial Day Ceremony

- Noreen bought miniature American flags to be used during the ceremony as each name is read. She gave the flags to Jack.
- The VFW will be having a Veteran of the Year once again.
- Jack has the program prepared with the exception of the poem which will be available in early May.
- As discussed at an earlier meeting there will be a more concerted effort to distribute the program along the parade route. Jack will investigate having some Scouts or others to walk along the side of the parade route and distribute. Last year we had 100 programs printed. He would like to print 250 this year. Jack estimates the cost to be approximately \$200.00.
- Jack emphasized the importance of having a sound system in place for the ceremony. Without the sound system there can be no program. Steve has been working on getting information together to either purchase or rent the sound system.
- Jack has confirmed all dignitaries and presenters.
- Placement of flowers at the various monuments will be: Civil War Monument, Alexandra Cassaday, World War 2 Memorial, Ted Marolda and for the Vietnam War Memorial, Paul Vaccari.

Neighborhood Walking Tour

Virginia is working hard to prepare and has a great deal of information compiled. She confirmed with Sheila that the Funeral Home, barring any conflicts, will be open during the walking tour.

Summer Concert Update

Deb was given three potential concert dates from Helen Bunnell at Friends of Main Street. The decision was made to select June 30th at 7 P.M. as the best option for the concert. Deb and Lynn brought a CD of Civil War music by a group called "Gallant Sons of Erin" which they played for the meeting. Everyone was in agreement that they would be a good group to have perform at the concert. Deb suggested that we have a bake sale on the day of the concert.

Monument Restoration

Discussion regarding the importance of having a breakdown from Mike Fortuna regarding prioritizing the projects. Sheila will provide Deb with his contact information. Discussion regarding the upcoming budget impacting the ability to do any restoration was discussed.

Fundraising Projects

No information available

Status of returning \$100K to restoration account

No new information available

Transfer of \$30K to restoration account

No new information available

8. New Business

- Given the email from John Schwaikert resigning from the commission it was determined that for the time being we need an Interim Treasurer.
- A motion was made by Sheila Sedlack to appoint Lynn Kessler as the Interim Treasurer. Virginia Shultz-Charette seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.
- There was discussion regarding the financial information, receipt books, etc. Lynn Kessler will contact John Schwaikert to get the necessary information.
- Deb suggested we contact Steve Dew to see if he is interested in joining the commission.
- Due to work conflicts for Sheila Sedlack it was determined that for the time being we need an Interim Secretary. A motion was made by Virginia Shultz-Charette to appoint Deb Kessler as the Interim Secretary. Noreen Marchand seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.
- Exterior lighting discussion. Jack will take this project on. He stated that we need to fix the lighting on the top of the monument. He will discuss with Bob Holmes, electrician.
- According to an email from John Schwaikert the driveway chain is not damaged. He provided an explanation as to how the chain works. Noreen will have Peter Marchand fix and take the chain down for the season. According to our website the chain should have been taken down on Easter Sunday.
- Additional monument openings was discussed by Virginia. She would like to have the monument open every Sunday afternoon from 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM beginning July 10th and ending August 28th. For the summer openings she is proposing an ongoing topic of “Between the Wars” which will examine the post-Civil War era and conclude with the onset of the Great War (World War 1). She would like to consider having Rick Spencer perform music from the Great War on the closing day of the summer openings. His cost is \$300.00.
A motion to approve opening the monument on the days noted above was made by Sheila Sedlack and seconded by Lynn Kessler. Unanimous approval.
- Virginia discussed the possibility of creating an umbrella organization to help the monument in fundraising efforts. She suggested speaking to Helen Bunnell at Friends of Main Street for additional information.
- Sheila will investigate the Board of Selectman’s former capital account for maintenance of the Soldiers’ Monument. As the monument belongs to the town it would be beneficial to all to have the BOS determine annual funds to be set aside to aid the monument in the future. Apparently this was done in years past but has not been done in recent years.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted
Deborah Kessler, Interim Secretary