**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.*

**AGENDA**

**Thursday, April 14, 2022 – 7 P.M.**

Lee Ann LeClair Room (Blue Room), 2nd floor, Town Hall, Winsted, CT

**Jack Bourque, Chairman**

**Steve Dew, Vice-Chairman**

**Deborah Kessler, Secretary**

**Lynn Kessler, Treasurer**

**Kristin Dowler**

**Virginia Shultz-Charette**

**Sheila Sedlack**

**Thomas Sullivan**

**Douglas Werner**

**Historical Consultant Verna Gilson**

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Agenda Review**

**3. Public Comment**

**4. Approval of Secretary’s Minutes:** Thursday, March 10, 2022 -- **Deb**

**5. Treasurer’s Report**

Status of budget and restoration accounts – Lynn

Status of other accounts –

Additional donations for restoration

Encumbered

**6. Communications –** Mail or email –

**7. Monument and Grounds Activity Status Reports:**

* Window Replacement work status
  + Inside monument building
  + Clean-up necessary on 1st Floor – set date before Memorial Day opening
* Grounds status –
  + Driveway opening as of April 2
  + Christmas tree down – warm weather permitting Friday, April 15
    - * Thomas, Steve, Doug, Jack
    - Replacement light strands -- Thomas
  + Flag replacement completed; one new extra flag in storage
    - Consideration for new flag pole under new business
  + Replacement of trash barrel – town’s DPW completed
  + Water fountain turn-on – ensure proper opening -- Steve
  + Notification to police department to patrol site completed
  + Street signs for openings – Doug
  + Grounds use request for Easter Sunday, April 17th
  + other

**Old Business:**

* Website changes/development Facebook updates – Thomas
  + Presentation on potential changes in Website
* Continued Development of special “friends” group -volunteer base – Deb
* Rt. 8 attraction signs for Monument – report from Sheila
* Historical information update –
  + Cannon mounts, Lynn, Verna, Steve
  + Some considerations for removing current concrete mounts – new business
* Commission members name tags (status) – Kristin -- ordered
* Winchester Historical Society – best time to visit as group – Sheila
* Town budget meeting and referendum for 2022-23
* Other

**New Business:**

* Openings –
  + Memorial Day
    - 10:15 – 10:30 ceremony by VFW Post 296, Winsted
    - East End Park Ceremony after parade
      * Co. K of the 28th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, Irish Brigade
      * Speaker – Bill O’Brien the features editor of the Republican-American newspaper,
      * Invocation -- Fr. Roger Hall, OFM, Parochial Vicar of St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Winsted
      * Daniel Matthew, Commander of the VFW Post 296
      * Invitations to other -- Veterans, State Representative Jay Case; Mayor Todd Arcelaschi,; Members of the Board of Selectmen
      * Flowers – honorary flower bearers for three memorials in East End Park –
        + Suggestions:
      * Poetry – decision needed
      * Other locations – WWI monument; Korean and Gulf War monuments
        + Decision for 2022
      * Purchase of small flags for placement during “reading of the names.”
        + Check supplies in cabinet, purchase as needed
      * Order placement for chair rental – security
        + Pick up needed and placement at park --
      * Provisions for water for The Gilbert School Band
        + Cooler supplied
    - Afternoon 2-4 Monument and grounds open
    - Commission members in attendance
  + June 19th (Sunday) approval of band (plays 1-4 pm)
    - Set up 12:00 – dismantle at conclusion of concert -- 4:30
      * Tent from Deb/Lynn to be given to Steve
    - Picnic and program and advertisement –Jack
      * Chairs needed for band: Jack, Steve, others
        + Have available in monument
    - Idea for special attraction -- Kristin
    - Rain venue – Whiting Mills
      * Commission members in attendance
        + Virginia, Steve, Thomas, Kristin, Doug
  + July 4th (Monday) 2-4 pm with reading at 2:15
    - Declaration of Independence – Jack
      * Commission member
  + August 7 (Sunday) 2-4 pm
    - Special 30-minute historical program – Virginia
      * Commission member in attendance
  + September 11 (Sunday) 2-4 pm
    - * Re-dedication ceremony / official re-opening
      * Ice-cream social
    - Commission members in attendance
      * Steve, Doug, Kristin, Thomas
  + October 15 (Saturday) – cemetery walk --
    - Forest View Cemetery, Rowley Street
      * Rain Date: Sunday, October 16
  + Veterans’ Day, November 11 (Friday) 2-4 pm
    - Gettysburg Address – Jack
      * Commission member in attendance

**Volunteers needed for openings (2) each month**

* Consideration for placement of pavers at the monument base
* Consideration for replacement of flag pole
* Consideration of temporarily removing cannons and deconstruction of broken concrete bases
* Consideration for removal of stone design from “fountain” and relocation to another area of the park – or another town park.
* Other Ideas for 2022 events
* Other:

**Adjournment:**

Next Monthly Scheduled Meetings

Second Thursdays of the month

May 12, 2022 June 9, 2022 July 14, 2022