**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