

**Town of Winchester**  
**Soldiers' Monument Commission**  
P.O. Box 322 • Winsted, CT 06098 • [www.SoldiersMonumentWinsted.org](http://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**  
**Thursday, January 9, 2020**

**Held in the third-floor conference room, Winchester Town Hall, 7 P.M.**

**Jack Bourque – Chairman**  
**Steve Dew – Vice-Chairman**  
**Deborah Kessler- Secretary**  
**Lynn Kessler –Treasurer**  
**Virginia Shultz-Charette**

**Noreen Marchand**  
**Sheila Sedlack**  
**Steven Silvester**  
**Douglas Werner**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M. by Steve Dew.

The members in attendance were:

- Steve Dew
- Deb Kessler
- Lynn Kessler
- Virginia Shultz- Charette
- Sheila Sedlack
- Steven Silvester
- Doug Werner

Member(s) Absent and Excused: Jack Bourque and Noreen Marchand

Member(s) Not Excused:

**2. Agenda Review:** None

**3. Public Comment:** None

**4. Approval of Secretary's Minutes for Wednesday, December 18, 2019**

Lynn made a motion to accept, Virginia seconded. Unanimous approval.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

Lynn reviewed and explained:

Status of budget and restoration accounts  
Budget for 2019-20  
Expense Status Encumbered in 2018-19 budget  
Status of store account

Additional donations for restoration since the last meeting. None

Sheila made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Doug seconded. Unanimous Approval.

#### **6. Communications:**

- Email to the commission from a school group commending the monument website and making suggestions of other links. Virginia will add the information to the website.
- Discussion regarding error messages received when emailing Sheila.

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

- Building status:
  - Interior conditions
    - Conditions set on First Floor for winter work and closure
    - Roof Inspection: report from Tremco available in January – no new information. Hoping to have the information at the February meeting.
    - Christmas tree lights: Jack will shut off on January 10
- Grounds status
  - Flag is down for Winter
  - Driveway barriers are in place
  - Trash removal is on-going
  - Picnic Tables reposition – Steve S. made a suggestion (from discussion with John S.) that when the time comes to reseat the tables they should be raised from the bottom – perhaps using a forklift- as the upper connection integrity is not strong.
  - Driveway condition –paving completed. All who have seen it report it looks good.
  - Other:

#### **Old Business:**

- Merchandise put away for winter: audit to be completed before the Memorial Day opening.
- Development of special "friends" group volunteer base. No new information. Deb plans to contact the current members as we start to plan for 2020.
- Cemetery Walk for 2020
  - Location: Forest View/Rowley Street Cemetery, lower section to include the Gilbert Home.
  - Advance scouting/research proposed for, weather permitting, the weekend of February 15<sup>th</sup>. Deb will update the week in advance.
  - Virginia asked for a cemetery plot map to assist in the research. Deb will try to locate.
  - Date confirmation: Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> with a rain date, October 18<sup>th</sup>.
- 2019 fund raising letter status – Steve S., Sheila and Noreen. Steve S. reports that the letters were mailed by Goulet Printing the week of January 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Window replacement with James Pedrolini
  - Work is currently on hold through January.

#### **New Business:**

- Participation in Winchester 250 events – plans are developing for our closing event in November 2021. Jack is organizing; committee will begin to choose the top 12 historical characters from all of the cemetery walks; begin to discuss with the actors/participants.
- Suggestions/recruiting of new commission member. Discussion regarding the need to have potential new members and the best way to find them. Discussed using the volunteer list as a start and to invite the volunteers to attend our meetings. This way if someone were to want to become a member of the commission they are aware of the context of our monthly responsibilities, etc.
- Suggestions for major summer event at the monument in 2020 – ongoing discussion regarding a concert, picnic, etc.

- Send thank you note to Regional 7 for decorating the monument. Sheila will take care of this.
- Other: Pewter Ornaments – Sheila reported that Mr. Perry, nephew of Maria Brown, bought all that we had in stock and would like to order more.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

**Next Monthly Scheduled Meetings:**

- February 13, 2020
- March 12, 2020
- April 9, 2020