

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
Thursday, October 10, 2019

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 7:00 P.M. by Jack Bourque.

The members in attendance were:

- Jack Bourque
- Steve Dew
- Deb Kessler
- Lynn Kessler
- Noreen Marchand
- Sheila Sedlack
- Steven Silvester

Member(s) Absent and Excused: Virginia Shultz-Charette

Member(s) Not Excused: Doug Werner

2. Agenda Review: None

3. Public Comment: None

4. Approval of Secretary's Minutes for Thursday, September 19, 2019

Sheila made a motion to accept, Steve D. seconded. Noreen abstained. Unanimous approval.

5. Treasurer's Report

Lynn presented the following:

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

Steve D:

Status of store account - no information available.

Additional donations for restoration since the last meeting. None

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

6. Communications: None

7. Monument and Grounds Activity Status Reports:

- Building status:
 - Interior conditions
 - Conditions for public openings: **Doug will clean prior to Veterans' Day.**
 - Display case 1st floor/information table 3rd floor: **Will need to be moved during the window restoration project.**
 - Ongoing Civil War exhibit 2nd floor
 - Exterior conditions
 - Granite stone and roof. **Jack reported that it is looking very good.**
 - Switch for spotlight- ongoing.
- Grounds status
 - Trash Removal – ongoing
 - Picnic Tables reposition – on-going
 - Driveway condition – ongoing issue **Jim Rollins has ordered a truck that can “rip out” the driveway. It is possible that this may be taken care of soon.**
 - Tree Cutting in 2019 on-going discussion
 - Other:

Old Business:

- Cemetery Walk – status of the October 19 event – Center Cemetery – Deb/Noreen
 - Final Preparation and assignments
 - **Noreen will need the donation jar and paper cups. She will create a sign noting the refreshments are free. She will provide the cider.**
 - **Sheila will need the cash box. She will provide the tickets and will bring a table.**
 - **Jack will bring the banner from the monument.**
 - **Deb and Lynn will bring the paper goods and bottled water.**
- Development of special “friends” group volunteer base -ongoing
- Report on results of Fall Foliage participation and donations. There was a good turnout. Deb would have liked to have had a tent” to block the sun. Next time we need to make arrangements ahead of time with Noreen who has the monument “tent”.
- Veterans' Day (Monday, November 11) Noreen and Doug to cover.
 - **Reading of the Gettysburg Address will be at 3 PM.**
 - **Steve S. will set up the sound system.**
 - **Steve S. will read the Gettysburg Address**
 - **Advertisements**
- Window fund drive suggestions -None
- Purchasing and funding of new merchandise and brochures
 - Prepare for 2020 events
 - Evaluate current merchandise, literature, open flag – **Steve D. reports this is ongoing.**
- New booklet of historic information about the monument – Jack – Nothing new to report.
- 2019 Fundraising Letter distributed for discussion and approval
 - **Letter was approved.**

- **Questions regarding the best option for the mailing were discussed. The discussions regarded whether to Option A: mail in an envelope to prior donors and a selection of addresses in town OR Option B: whether to send as a tri-fold without an envelope to all addresses in town.**
- **Additional discussion regarding whether to include a return envelope if it is decided to send as Option A.**
- **A sub-committee was formed to research and make the determination of the best options available regarding price, etc. They are to present their decision at the November meeting. If a meeting does not occur in November due to the holiday and travel of certain commission members, an email will be sent to the commission to let all know what they chose to do.**
- Window Replacement with James Pedrolini –
 - **Target to start sometime in December. He will remove the windows first and then the iron which will be very difficult.**
 - Glass and frame review by other vendors – Steve D. **reports that Mike Matthews is very interested. James wants to speak with him. (CT Specialty Glass).**
 - Letter for glass company donation – Jack

New Business:

- Participation in October 29th Winsted Trails – Jack- **The cemetery walk participants have been invited to partner with Winsted Trails for a fundraising project at the Little Red Barn Brewers. A percentage of the proceeds will be donated to the monument. They are having a dinner and silent auction as part of the festivities. Jack, Steve D. Deb and Lynn plan to attend.**
- Participation in Winchester 250 events – Jack- **Jack reports there will not be a play however he is proposing that in addition to the Cemetery Walk that year that we do an amalgamated presentation on stage of various personages from the many years of doing the Cemetery Walk. This could take place at Gilbert, The Grange or elsewhere. It would need to be someplace with a large seating capacity. This would be in November. Steve S. will assist.**
- Potential need for replacement of commission member -
- Suggestions for major summer event at the monument in 2020 – to be discussed at the January meeting.
- Other:
 - Due to scheduling conflicts for several commission members it was determined to cancel the November meeting. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 18th at 6 PM.
 - Sheila will set the calendar for 2020 keeping the meeting on the second Thursday of each month.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Jack Bourque at 8:50 P.M.

**Next Scheduled Monthly Meeting:
January 9, 2020**