

Town of Winchester
Soldiers' Monument Commission
P.O. Box 322 • Winsted, CT 06098 • www.SoldiersMonumentWinsted.org

MINUTES
For the Monthly Meeting
Thursday, May 9, 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 7:08 P.M. by Jack Bourque.

The members in attendance were:

- Jack Bourque
- Steve Dew
- Deb Kessler
- Lynn Kessler
- Virginia Shultz-Charette
- Noreen Marchand
- Sheila Sedlack

Members Absent: Doug Werner, Steven Silvester

2. Agenda Review: None

3. Public Comment: None

4. Approval of Secretary's Minutes for Thursday, April 11, 2019

Lynn made the motion, seconded by Steve D. Unanimous Approval.

5. Treasurer's Report

Steve D. needs to make application for a PO for the stone engraving.

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

6. Communications: None

7. Monument and Grounds Activity Status Reports:

- Building status:
 - **Interior conditions**

- Jack began painting the interior. He painted the stairs from the first to second floors. He did not do the walls. It looks great- thank you Jack.
 - The paint supplies are stored in the cabinet. Jack hopes other commission members will continue with the painting when time allows.
 - **Exterior conditions**
 - **Christmas lights down; switch for spot light.** Jack and John removed the tree. It is a two person job. The tree is stored in a container in the attic. The two spotlights at the rear of the monument detract from the tree lights. John plans to install a switch so they can be turned off when the tree is lit. Steve D. will change the outlet to the roof.
- Grounds status
 - **Trash Removal** – all is going well.
 - **Driveway condition** – ongoing discussion with the Town Manager and Public Works.
 - **Water on-** yes
 - **Walkway bricks – to be replaced before Memorial Day-** Jack states that John plans to have this done before Memorial Day. Discussion surrounding the weed issue between the bricks. Lynn found a recipe for a non-toxic weed killer. Sheila expressed concern regarding the damage this might cause to the bricks. Sheila will look into this and convey the findings to the commission via email so that Lynn can spray both the brick walkway and the area surrounding the drinking fountain prior to Memorial Day. If this is successful, he will spray again prior to July 4th.
 - **Tree Cutting in 2019.** Jack presented an estimate and diagrams of the plans. The commission will visit the monument on Monday, May 13th in order to better visualize the plan as the trees have been marked. The project would take approximately 2 weeks to complete and the park would need to be closed during this period of time. The approximate cost is \$8,500.00 to cut the trees and create a wildlife habitat in certain areas. Steve D. asked how much more it would be to remove all wood and not create the wildlife habitat. The cost is prohibitive. Lynn made a motion, Steve D. seconded to proceed with the project by planning the financing of it. Unanimous approval.
 - **Other:** Jack noticed that the picnic table is sinking. He has discussed with the Public Works department. They will lift and reset the table.
 - **Other:** Sheila reports that due to the extremely wet weather the flowers for the planter may not be ready for Memorial Day. It will all be dependent on the weather as we move forward in the month.

Old Business:

- Cemetery Walk – no new information at this time.
- Development of special “friends” group volunteer base (SoMo Sentinels)- Jack put the call out for more volunteers via Facebook. No new interest. Hope to gather more interest by participating at the Fall Foliage Festival.
- Memorial Day exercise in East End Park- program copy
 - **Water for band.** Noreen will donate 48 bottles for the band. They will remain onsite during the entire ceremony.
 - **Flower (6 Bouquets)** In addition to the three monuments in East End Park, we will place flowers for the two monuments in West End Park as well as the Great War monument at the entrance to the Rowley Street Cemetery. Sylvia Bovi, who was an airplane spotter at the monument during the Cold War, will place the flowers. Deb and Lynn will bring her to West End Park and Pat Bourque will bring her to Rowley Street Cemetery. She will meet with us at East End Park and be part of the group onstage at the conclusion of the parade.
 - **Poster Boards for Virginia’s presentations** are ready and look great. Thank you Jack for taking care of ordering them.

- Matt Cannuli who has a Korean War era jeep will drive the flower presenters in the parade. We will need the commission banner for the front of the jeep.
- We all proofread the program. Jack has prepared a very thoughtful and meaningful ceremony.
- The names will be read in this order:
 - Revolutionary War – Jack
 - Civil War – Sheila and Virginia
 - Great War – Noreen
 - WW 2 – Deb and Lynn
 - Korean War – Jack
 - Vietnam War – Doug
- July 4th opening – (Thursday) Jack and Deb are reading the Declaration of Independence.
 - Public announcement and volunteers are being sought
- Labor Day opening (Monday, September 2) - Sheila
- Veterans' Day (Monday, November 11) Noreen and Doug to cover.
 - Reading of the Gettysburg Address
- Website and Facebook presence- (ongoing)
 - Working on the website update continues-
 - Continued caution urged regarding spam emails going to the commission group email address
 - New Facebook page: Soldiers' Monument Winsted. (Or can be reached through @soldiersmonumentwinsted
- Window fund drive continues via social media.
- Search for display case and table for the 3rd floor- on going
 - Discussion about having Bill Campbell during the winter months construct something in situ.
 - Jack has the display boards as mentioned earlier and has covered the cost for them. Thank you Jack.
- Applying for Connecticut Trust Maintenance and Repair Funding – on going – Jack
 - In Progress
- Purchasing and funding of new merchandise and brochures
 - **Evaluate current hand out literature** – ongoing (**need commission member to take charge of this to organize and prepare for openings**)
 - **Purchase of hats for sale at the monument and at events** Steve D. will check on the status of the order.
 - Displays on the 2nd and 3rd floors ready for next opening- cost of printing
 - Virginia will package SoMo stationary for sale.
- Stone Carver Update – Steve D.
 - Steve D. presented photos of the proposed project. This will be completed prior to Memorial Day.

New Business:

- Participation in Winsted Trails Second Saturday walks – set date and participants
 - Saturday, August 10th was selected. Sheila will represent the commission and be at the opening.

- TLB proposal for Architectural Services for Windows Replacement Project
 - Jack discussed a new idea of using a combination louver and mullioned window for the first floor of the monument. It would replicate the original design and be made of clad wood. Jim P. (mason) would act as the General Contractor and hire a person to install the windows.
 - Discussion regarding this approach was very positive.

 - TLB cost estimate for replacement of windows and related work. The work as presented above would be less than 10K.

- Photo-op for women's group that donated to the monument fund will not be taking place at this time due to privacy concerns.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Jack Bourque at 9:05 P.M.

Special Meeting at the Monument: Monday, May 13, 2019

Next Scheduled Monthly Meeting: June 13, 2019