

**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, April 11, 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 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
- Steven Silvester

**2. Agenda Review: None**

**3. Public Comment:**

Ric Nalette, the co-chair of the Winsted Trails presented a proposal for a Main Street walking tour which would include hiking to the monument. The walk would be part of the Second Saturday guided hikes the organization sponsors. The tours occur monthly May – November and start at 2 PM. A commission member (or Sentinel) would greet the tour group at the monument and provide the history and a tour.

Lynn made a motion, seconded by Steve D., to table a decision until the May meeting when the commission members have time to consult their various calendars. A decision will be relayed to Mr. Nalette at that time.

**4. Approval of Secretary's Minutes for Thursday, February 14, 2019**

Thank you to Noreen for taking the minutes in the Secretary's absence.

Sheila made the motion, seconded by Steve D. Three abstentions. Five members in favor. Minutes Approved.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

Lynn is maintaining the donation information in a spreadsheet and will print to bring to the next meeting. Jack noted that the date for the report should be amended to April 11, 2019.

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

## 6. Communications:

Virginia checked the mail box and we received a money order from a group home that chose the monument to be the beneficiary of a can and bottle drive. They chose the monument as the group home residents enjoy spending time on the grounds and would like to take a picture at the monument to commemorate their successful fundraising project. The donation was \$143.05 for the Restoration Account.

## 7. Monument and Grounds Activity Status Reports:

- Building status:
  - Interior conditions
    - Now that the weather is getting warmer, Jack hopes to get the painting started soon.
  - Exterior conditions
    - Jack and James P. (mason) visited the monument and found that the repair work held up very well through the winter months.
- Grounds status
  - Sheila is coordinating with NW Regional HS to work on the flower bed prior to Memorial Day. Deb will provide the Sentinel information to Sheila for those volunteers who would like to be a part of the planting.
  - There is a new trash barrel in place.
  - Driveway condition – Jack continues to discuss with Bob G. but is not hopeful. Noreen and Peter will remove the chain prior to Easter.
  - Walkway bricks – to be replaced soon.
  - Tree Cutting in 2019. Jack has sent a letter to the homeowners whose property abuts the commission property. Most of them are positive about the project. He is going to pursue getting some estimates prior to the May meeting.
  - The Christmas tree needs to be taken down. Jack and Steve D. will assist John S. when removing so that we understand how it is installed and taken down going forward. They will coordinate getting it down sometime soon now that spring has arrived.

## Old Business:

- Cemetery Walk
  - Deb discussed the progress. Thanks to Noreen we have several biographies ready. The date for the walk was confirmed as Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> with Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> as a rain date.
- Development of special "friends" group volunteer base (SoMo Sentinels)
  - Deb asked Jack if he would send out a new announcement for more volunteers via Facebook and FOMS in the hopes of getting some new members.
- Memorial Day exercise in East End Park- discussion about participants
  - Discussion regarding the need for another person to put the flowers at the Vietnam monument. It was suggested that Doug's grandson be asked. All other monuments are covered.

- Jack has not been able to get in touch with the pastor at St. James Church to invite for the benediction. He may try the Jewish Temple or Faith Bible Church.
  - Doug is going to contact Commander Hunt regarding the flag raising midday at town hall. It would be great to do this during the parade but there is concern about the timing involved.
  - Discussion continued regarding the Korean war monument on the west side of town. We are trying to define our role given that the East End Park ceremony is hosted and planned by the commission but what occurs during the parade is not. This extends to not only the Korean War monument but the monument in Rowley Street Cemetery. No firm decision was made.
  - Poetry contest at The Gilbert School – prize offered for First Place
  - There is an ongoing concern and desire that the Band remain in the park until the close of the ceremony.
- Consideration for events on July 4<sup>th</sup> opening (Thursday) reading of the Declaration of Independence.
    - The plan is to have people take turns reading the Declaration.
    - Volunteers will be sought.
    - The opening of the monument to be covered by Deb and Jack.
- Consideration for events on Labor Day (Monday, September 2) – reading of the US Constitution- Sections
    - It was decided that we postpone having a formal program for Labor Day until 2020.
    - Sheila will cover the opening.
- Veterans’ Day (Monday, November 11) Noreen and Doug to cover.
- 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 3<sup>rd</sup> floor- follow up from Steve D.
    - The display case that Steve D. emailed the commission regarding will not fit up the stairs.
    - The search is ongoing at this point.
- Applying for Connecticut Trust Maintenance and Repair Funding – on going – Jack
    - Results of the meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup> with Alyssa Lozupone, Architectural Preservationist and another representative from the SHPO, Dept. of Economic & Community Development (Helen?) were inconclusive. They are open to continuing the discussion although strongly in favor of reverting to the original window construction of wood.
- 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 was reported on by Steve D. He was in the process of ordering the hats from the Embroidery Wizard when the Embroidery Wizard had a family emergency. They are hoping to have the hats ready soon.
    - Displays on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors ready for next opening- no new information yet.

- Stone Carver Update – Steve D.
  - Steve D. and Jack met with a stone carver who uses lasers. His type of stone carving would not be appropriate in a historic venue such as the monument. They next met with Adam Heller who would hand carve the tablet. He took sketches of each letter size and dimension and is able to start the work in mid-May. He estimates it will take 2 days maximum to complete the project.
  - He noted that the Supplemental Tablet is situated in a better location in the monument and was therefore protected from any acid rain.
  - Steve S. asked what sort of criteria was used to determine if the tablet should be modified. Virginia discussed the omission of the name in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the need/desire to correct this.
  - A motion was made by Virginia, seconded by Lynn that the money be taken from Maintenance and Structures to pay for the project. Unanimous Approval.

**New Business:**

- TLB proposal for Architectural Services for Window Replacement Project
  - Jack discussed that the windows cannot be removed from the inside of the monument without causing damage. James (mason) agrees but does not think that it is much of a problem. He suggested that he bid for the job and subcontract out to the window installer so that he can assure this is done in the best manner for the monument.
- TLB cost estimate for replacement of windows and related work-
  - Discussed whether to invite Jim (mason) from Allstate to the May meeting
  - While in the monument, Jack and Jim both noticed that if we use the window opposite the entry to the monument as the vented window, we will lose a great portion of the natural light that comes into the base/entry. Steve S. suggested using a light meter to truly determine how much light will be lost. He also suggested we consider installing a door that is vented as that would be close to the original construction of the monument and allow for air flow in the best location.
- Laurel Parade participation: Matt Cannuli who has a Korean War era jeep will drive the commission.
  - This was discussed at the January meeting and the commission opted not to participate in the parade this year. Deb has Matt's contact information and will forward to Jack to see if he would participate in the Memorial Day Parade.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by Jack Bourque at 8:55 P.M.

**Next Scheduled Monthly Meeting:** 9 May 2019 at 7 PM in Town Hall.