

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, September 20, 2018

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
- Sheila Sedlack
- Doug Werner

The members excused from attendance were:

- Lynn Kessler
- Noreen Marchand
- Virginia Shultz-Charette

Absent:

- Steven Silvester

2. Agenda Review: None

3. Public Comment: None

4. Approval of Secretary's Minutes for July 12, 2018

An error was found in the minutes. Amended copy to be provided for the next meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

- Lynn was unable to attend the meeting, however, he sent the treasurer's report to the commission for review. They represented the final sheets for the fiscal year 2018 budget. Next month will reflect the new fiscal year.
- Steve D. brought the proceeds from the WW2 tag sale at the monument in June. The monies to be deposited in the Restoration account.
- A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Steve D., seconded by Doug. Unanimous approval.

6. Communications:

- A letter of interest was received from Jim Johnson. Jack has invited him to attend the October meeting.
- Virginia reported via email to the commission that the estate hearing was set for the following week regarding the inheritance bequeathed to the commission. No need for any commission members to attend.

7. Monument and Grounds Activity Status Reports:

- Building status:
 - Interior conditions
 - Stairway painting – on hold until the repointing has been completed.
 - Exterior conditions
 - The repointing is going very well. Jack had provided (via email) drone photographs that illustrated the extent of the work being done. The mason is working slow and steady and doing an excellent job. A change order for extending the "end date" was created.
 - The Christmas tree will need to be installed and having the work incomplete by November 1st is an issue. John S. needs to make some adjustments to the guidewires in early November to have it ready for the tree to be lit on time. Jack will be assisting John and would like as many SoMo members as possible to assist so that several members can be familiar with the new procedures.
 - A port-a-pot has been installed by the Public Works department for the duration of the repointing project. Due to vandalism, they had to tie it down to secure it. This is a \$300 expense that will need to be taken from the maintenance budget.
 - In late August human waste was found in the trash barrel.
- Grounds status
 - Driveway condition has worsened. Jack has spoken again with Public Works.
- Walkway bricks
 - The project is on hold for now. We have encumbered the funds for the project and have approval to wait until spring to use them. The commission discussed who should do the project and decided to move forward with John S. His cost is less than what others would charge. Jack will write to John and secure him to do the project in the spring.
- Cannon Stands
 - Jack discussed with the mason about using the surplus mortar to repair the stands. The mason feels that granite would be a better material for the bases. Discussion was had regarding spending additional monies for granite stands and a decision was made to not address that at this time given that we have windows next on the restoration project.
- Other
 - The grass has not been mowed recently. Jack will contact Jim Rollins.

Old Business:

- Cemetery Walk – South Road Cemetery 2018 update

- Flyers were distributed. Everyone agreed to hand them out when possible. Jack will be sure that they are available at the Fall Foliage Festival.
 - The information has been shared via social media and via press releases.
 - Doug will coordinate for traffic flow and parking.
 - Sheila is coordinating with a variety of organizations including Regional 7, Gilbert School, the Boy Scouts and the Fire Department and Ambulance Youth Groups to have guides and volunteers.
 - We have three confirmed tour guides at present.
 - We have had several past participants withdraw from this years tour for a variety of reasons.
- Website and Facebook presence – on hold (Jack and Steve D.)
 - Photo and donation from Klebe Fuel will be used to kick-off the window campaign after the completion of the repointing. (Jack and Steve D.)
 - Park Visitation Form was created by Jack. The commission members reviewed and approved of it being used for any future formal visits to the monument.
 - Thank you cards for participants at the June 16th event were sent out by Sheila.

New Business:

- Bruce Stafford visited the meeting to present some ideas about future events. He made suggestions based on a flag display he saw while travelling this summer. The commission members enjoyed hearing his ideas. It is hoped he will attend more often and will continue to share his ideas. He was also very interested in the CW monument in Forest View Cemetery. It was suggested that he speak to Virginia regarding his questions and interest in the names of the soldiers.
- Labor Day opening: Sheila reported that no one visited the monument. She spent the afternoon weeding with her granddaughter.
- Continuing search for display case and table for 2nd floor: No one has located a suitable display case yet.
- Confirmation of Veteran’s Day opening for Sunday, November 11 (2 to 4 PM)
 - Special Ceremony is scheduled for 3 PM and will include Jack reading the Gettysburg Address. He discovered that there are several versions and it is not established as to which version was read in Gettysburg on November 19, 1863. Jack has decided to read the version that is used at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.
 - Jack has arranged for an honor guard to be present.
 - There will be recorded music for the event. Deb will see if she and Lynn have any CW music that would be appropriate to the occasion and if there are any recorded compositions of the music played that day.
 - Jack will advertise the event.
 - The sound system will be needed. Discussion was had regarding future storage of the system. FOMS have asked to borrow it for the Fall Foliage Festival. Jack will make the arrangements for that. The system while under the jurisdiction of the commission truly belongs to the town- how to best store it securely while having it assessible needs to be determined.

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

Next Monthly Scheduled Meeting: October 11, 2018