

**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, June 14, 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
- Noreen Marchand
- Sheila Sedlack
- Deb Kessler
- Lynn Kessler
- Virginia Shultz- Charette
- Doug Werner

**2. Agenda Review: None**

**3. Public Comment: None**

**4. Approval of Secretary's Minutes for March 8, 2018**

Minutes from the May meeting were not ready in time for the meeting.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

Status of budget, savings, and restoration accounts – Lynn

Discussion surrounded a suggestion by Cindy Rine in the Finance Department, to combine Section IIA and Section IIB to allow for better tracking. A motion was made by Sheila, seconded by Virginia. Unanimous approval to combine those sections in our account details.

Virginia reported that she had received a donation to be applied to the Restoration account. Jack reported donations from the Memorial Day opening that will be applied to the Restoration account.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented. Virginia made the motion; seconded by Noreen. Unanimous approval.

## 6. Communications

A thank you letter was received from Prime Tech High School for the recent school group tours at the monument.

## 7. Monument and Grounds Activity Status Reports:

- Building status:
  - Interior conditions
    - Stairway painting – on hold until the repointing has been completed.
    - Electrical conduit cover painting- Thank you to Steve Dew for completing this.
    - Cleaning – Thank you to Doug Werner for cleaning prior to Memorial Day, and both the June 9<sup>th</sup> and June 16<sup>th</sup> openings.
    - Electrical outlets fixed and presentation of invoice for work- the GFI outlet needed to be replaced. The circuit breaker was loose. The cost of this work will be taken from Maintenance of Structures.

- Exterior conditions
  - Repointing restoration – report on status – Jack

Jim (mason) requested a meeting prior to the restoration work start regarding some concerns he had with the condition of the roof. He met with both Mike F. and Mike P. He had found a spongy spot on the roof. Tremco has inspected this and determined that this is a normal condition. The work has begun. Jim has two men who work with him- Joe and Tucker. SoMo members are encouraged to stop by during the day to observe the work in progress. During the day the work area base is fenced off.

- Grounds status
  - Grounds clean-up, flower planting, trash removal
    - The grass is being mowed regularly.
    - The flowers in the fountain garden are beautiful. Thank you Sheila for organizing this.
    - Doug took the old flags for proper disposal at the Elks.
    - Jack suggested adding small American flags to the fountain garden.

- Driveway condition and possible fix

Jack discussed the condition of the driveway with the town manager and has met with Jim Rollins. Grinding down the existing driveway to a gravel surface is being considered. The commission is optimistic that the driveway condition will be addressed.

- Walkway bricks – decision for work

Jack has discussed the need for this project with the town manager. The price quoted by John S. is better than a contractor cost. This project is on hold for now.

## Old Business:

- Memorial Day celebration – follow up and suggestions for changes

All were in agreement regarding what a great program Jack continues to organize for Memorial Day. It is very thoughtful and meaningful. We all wish more people would participate in the ceremony. There was further discussion regarding the Gilbert Marching Band departure in the middle of the ceremony. Some members expressed the possibility that the students had other obligations. Other members expressed the opinion that if the band has committed to play they should remain at the ceremony out of respect for this solemn occasion. It was suggested that they play one more piece of music toward the end of the program and that Jack would speak to them about the importance of remaining until the end.

- Poems on Website – Jack will follow up and work with Steve D. to get the website operational and timely.
- Photos on Website – anyone with photos from the event should forward to Jack.
- Celebration day, June 16, 2018 10 A.M to 4 P.M. -- Deb and Lynn
  - Update of discussion about event and individual responsibilities
    - Sign placement – permanent placement: **At the event, on a chair outside the monument to be unveiled during the ceremony at 1 P.M. Lynn will keep it at home until the restoration work is concluded and it can be installed inside the interior of the monument.**
    - Call for local residents who were “observers”: **We have two local women attending; Sylvia Bovi and Beverly Navin**
    - Parking plan at Monument for event day: **Jack**
    - Installation of sound system for event – **Sheila is working with Steve S. to arrange**
    - Water availability for participants – **SoMo to provide water. Deb and Lynn to provide bag lunches and soft drinks.**
    - Dance assignments preparation on Friday: **Noreen, Virginia and Jack to assist Deb and Lynn. 10 AM Friday at the Elks.**
    - Dance assignments for Saturday night and Saturday: **Virginia and Jack to collect money at the door.**
    - Coordinating with Russ’ Septic System : **Steve D. – all set**
    - Coordinating rain day cancellation-: **rain or shine event**
    - Raffle tickets and donation table to be covered by SoMo members.
- Cemetery Walk – South Road Cemetery 2018 update
  - Deb, Noreen and Virginia: Plan to begin work after the Fourth of July.
  - Confirm date— Saturday, October 20; rain date Sunday, October 21
  - Photos from 2017 on web site status – Jack

Please send to Jack as discussed earlier in the minutes.

  - Volunteers for Cemetery walk  
Sheila is coordinating with a variety of organizations.
- Website and Facebook presence – TBD—Jack  
There will be consideration regarding website information including adding or updating the location finder due to recent communication regarding difficulty in locating the monument.

- Video security system -- on hold (Sheila)
- Photo and donation from Klebe Fuel: the check has been deposited.
- Other:

**New Business:**

- Summer activities possible for July and August are tabled at this time.
- July 4<sup>th</sup> opening: Virginia
- Labor Day opening: Sheila is considering this date.
- Continuing search for display case and table for 2<sup>nd</sup> floor: No one has located a suitable display case yet.
- Other: Discussion regarding the importance of archiving the SoMo information. We should approach Verna Gilson in the History Room to see what might be available for us.
- Meeting dates information for:
  - August 9th and September 13th: Jack is unable to attend both meetings. The commission opted to keep those dates rather than change them.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by Jack Bourque at 8:45 P.M. SoMo members went to the main conference room to photograph the reproduction sign created by Lynn with the original on display.

Next Monthly Scheduled Meeting: July 12, 2018 at 7 P.M.