

**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

Special Meeting For Thursday, September 21, 2017

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:** Meeting was called to order by Jack Bourque, Chairman at 7 PM
2. **Attendance:** All members in attendance.
3. **Public Comment:** Tom Carey was in attendance and offered insight into the prospective repointing job as he has managed other similar projects.
4. **Discussion of repointing restoration options**

Presentation by James Pedrolini of Allstate Waterproofing Company, Inc.
Virginia and Lynn met James last year when he visited the monument. They were very impressed with his background and expertise.
His is a family owned business that has been in operation for over 60 years. He was trained by his father in the business of being a Steeplejack and has been doing this sort of work on historic buildings, primarily churches for more than 35 years. He has a team of experienced people whom he has trained that work with him.
He discussed that the repointing on the monument is in very poor condition. He believes that much of the joint masonry is original and that any repointing done in the past has been done to match the original. He stated that water enters into any small crack from the top down and stated that our restoring the roof first was a very wise move. The roof helps to repel water however once it enters the cracks in the repointing, as the building expands and contracts, the structure loses strength and integrity. Given the age of the monument and how extensive the repointing damage is, the only way to properly halt the deterioration of the monument is by repointing extensively. There are cracks in the mortar joints around each window. The structure will need constant maintenance for the mortar going forward. At present there is vegetation in the joints. The windows however are not an issue as they allow for circulation and breathing which is good for the structure. He uses the example of a belfry tower being open and recommends that when we do replace the windows we consider some sort of grille or vent that will allow the air to circulate.
Mr. Pedrolini brought photo books of prior projects and told us of his extensive background having restored buildings all over New England. He mentioned specifically restoring the

Waterbury Republican Tower, many churches in Vermont and New Hampshire and the Federal building in Ogdensburg, NY.

He explained his approach to a job such as this. He sets up rigging and uses 2 iron hooks which go straight down on the wall allowing the rigging and steeplejack chair(boson) to suspend from there. All materials are pulled up by hand. All work is done by hand using chisels and hand sculpting tools. He mixes the mortar for each job individually so that it is specific to the needs of the building in terms of movement.

Commission members were concerned as to how this deterioration has occurred and was it because of the mortar materials being used in the past. Mr. Pedrolini explained how over 200 years ago there was no cement available that a mixture of lime and sand was often used and in some instances these buildings are still quite intact. He believes the monument issues stem from the architectural design of the building- the base being wider which allows for the water to get into the cracks. This is compounded by the lack of an internal drain which would allow for the water to drain away without going down the sides.

Mr. Pedrolini would recommend an inspection and check of the mortar every 5 years. He estimates that small scale repointing would likely be needed in another 10-15 years.

He recommends that the commission not pursue further cleaning of the roof drippings as more damage to the building and the integrity of the granite could occur. He agrees that while the drips are visible it could have been much worse.

Mr. Pedrolini would recommend doing this project in the late spring. He offers a one year warranty. Given the condition of the stone he cannot offer more than that. He also provided a list of references.

5. Discussion of window restoration options

Jack mentioned that the windows on the first floor have bars. Perhaps we should consider that sort of window to increase ventilation when replacing. Virginia asked that this discussion be tabled.

Lynn made a motion to table for the November meeting. Virginia seconded. Unanimous approval.

6. Discussion of work completion by Eagle Rivet

Tremco Representative is not pleased with Eagle Rivet and feels the work could have been completed in 2-3 weeks. He was at the monument when the work began and felt they did not follow the product instructions in application which resulted in the drips. He does however feel that the product was applied correctly on the roof. He will inspect the roof in two years' time and will continue to inspect for the next 20 years. (2, 5, 7, 10, 15 and 20 years)

7. Possible vote on options for future restoration work

Jack will discuss our various options for the repointing project with the Town Manager and have this information available for either the November or December meeting with the hopes of having it done in the spring.

8. Discussion and possible vote on items for sale during October 21st cemetery walk program

Deb and Lynn got various quotes for long sleeved T-shirts. There was a great deal of discussion regarding how many to order. The best price option being for 48 shirts (\$10.99 each). The decision was made to discover what the price breakdown is for smaller quantities with 12 shirts being considered the best option for now. Lynn made a motion to order them in time for the Fall Foliage Festival. Steve D. seconded, Virginia opposed. Remaining members approved. A motion was made by Doug to order 12 shirts. Noreen seconded. Unanimous approval.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM

Respectfully submitted, 1 October 2017
Deborah Kessler, Secretary