

Maryland Military Monuments Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday January 9, 2019
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place, Crownsville Maryland 21032

Present: Chair McCord, Commissioners Carson, Kurtz, Martel, McKown, Morrill, Schnell, Schiszik, Soderberg, Villanueva, Wisniewski; Staff Steven Allan

Absent: Commissioners Dooley, Hammond, Plumb, Rude, Stone, Toomey

Chair McCord: Called the meeting to order at 1:13 pm.

- Started with a discussion of a phone call he received yesterday asking if the agenda for this meeting had been posted, as well as the status of Open Meetings Act training on the Commission. The law says that if we have to go into closed session, at least one member of the Commission must have completed the training and have a valid certificate. Advised that if anyone receives emails or calls to forward them to Steve.
- Asked for an approval of the minutes from the October meeting. Commissioner Wisniewski asked for a change on page 2, bullet 3, sentence 2: Strike the word “asserted” and replace with “suggested”. Commissioner Martel moved to accept the minutes; Commissioner Wisniewski seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

- Steve Allan provided a funding update.
 - Of the \$17,000 FY 2018 funds, \$10,297 have been encumbered for 2019 maintenance of 16 monuments in the central, not the western, part of the state. This will happen in the spring. (The agenda incorrectly stated “western”).
 - \$4,704 was invoiced for completed repair and partial repointing of the All Wars Monument in Mount Washington.
 - \$1,200 was encumbered but not yet invoiced for paving repair of the Hammann-Costin Monument in Baltimore City.
 - \$2,499.99 invoiced for the challenge medallions
 - \$4,737 minus the challenge medallion amount remains unencumbered in the Monuments Fund. **(\$4737-\$2500=\$2237)**
- Chair McCord asked for a motion to approve the financial report. Commissioner McKown moved, Commissioner Soderberg seconded. Motion passed without discussion.

Ongoing Business

- Commissioner Kurtz gave an update of the All Wars Monument in Mount Washington and Steve ran the powerpoint slides. This monument has been

maintained for at least a decade, perhaps 15 years. This work was done in September. The before shot shows the extent of the damaged stone at the top. We don't know for sure how it was damaged, but it could have been by a tree branch. The area is very overgrown. The conservators did a small amount of repointing around the plaque. They found the (missing) stone on the ground and were able to put it back together with the original parts. She was also able to get in touch with the American Legion regional commander, and they apparently cleaned up the brush and overgrowth from the site. Commissioner Wisniewski asked who owns the monument. Commissioner Kurtz answered The American Legion. Discussion about the area around the monument ensued. We are not certain who actually did the cleanup, or if it would continue in the future.

- Hamman-Costin Monument. The trench mortars were removed in July. Contacted Betty Hobgood about whether City Parks and Recreation had repaired the paving. We have not been invoiced for that yet. Commissioner Schiszik said that it looked like the repaving was done. Commissioner Kurtz said we need to confirm.
- Commissioner Kurtz provided an update on the Zion Lutheran Church WWII plaque, an undated Schuler commission commemorating 115 men and 4 women of Zion who answered the call. Five of them did not return, and are the names on the plaque. The translation is "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friend. John 15:13. The lower inscription translates as "Faithful unto death". Commissioner Kurtz made a motion to ask the conservator to provide an estimate for treatment and fold (the plaque) into the Spring 2019 contract for the central part of the state. A change order may be required since we only have \$10,297 encumbered in the existing contract. Commissioner McKown seconded and the motion carried with no further discussion.
- Commissioner Kurtz read off the geographic list of monuments that will be included in the central Maryland treatment cycle in Spring 2019. Steve will find the contract. Nancy and Betty will work on the change order.
- Medallion Project. Steve presented the medallions that were delivered to MHT in the fall, and passed around two of them. There are 100. The recipient's name will be engraved in the blank space. Discussion ensued about the correct use of the term medallion, as opposed to challenge coin. As a presentation piece, this is a medallion, whereas a challenge coin is a tool. Chair McCord said this will be a lasting token of our appreciation to whomever receives it.

New Business

- Baltimore Bar Association. Mitchell Courthouse lobby. Commissioner Kurtz and Commissioner Schiszik got in touch with Baltimore City DGS, and are meeting next Thursday with Judge Schneider who had contacted us for help. It is hard to read because of heavy veining in the marble. It could just be a lighting issue, and isn't likely to come to us as a project.

- Chair McCord commented on the Bladensburg Peace Cross in Prince Georges County that will be taken up by the Supreme Court and some of the arguments on both sides of the issue.
- Commissioner Soderberg mentioned that the Daughters of the American Revolution are planning for the 250th Anniversary of the Revolution by identifying every Revolutionary grave and marking them. A discussion of cemeteries ensued. Commissioner Schizik said that all burials are protected under state law, not just war graves.

Announcements

- The next meeting date is April 10, 2019 at 1:00 pm in Crownsville.
- Chair McCord mentioned that there are two or three vacancies coming up on the commission for people whose terms expire. Commissioner Soderburg has started the renewal process.
- Commissioner Kurtz announced that Commissioner Dan Toomey underwent surgery on January 4.
- Chair McCord provided the name of the person who called, and asked the Commission not to respond, but to forward the call or email to Steve, so that he can forward it to the AG. Commissioner Schizik asked if there were other reasons for closing a meeting. Chair McCord said there were 15 reasons. It would have to be on the agenda, and it would have to be announced.
- Commissioner Kurtz announced that the American Institute of Conservation for Historic and Artistic Works accepted the abstract that she and the conservators submitted for a paper on the monuments commission bronze maintenance program. It will be presented in Connecticut in May.

Chair McCord asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Wisniewski moved, Commissioner Schizik seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.