

Governor's Commission on Maryland Military Monuments

July 28, 2021 at 1:00 PM

Pursuant to notice, the regular meeting of the Governor's Commission on Maryland Military Monuments was held in person at Crownsville.

Commissioners Present: Deputy Secretary Sandra Schrader, Chair; Victor Butanis, Jenny Carson, Ellen Chase, Cheryl Jewitt, Dennis Rude, Raymond Shipley, Jari Villanueva, Alfred Mendelsohn, Stephen Hammond.

Commissioners Absent: David Craig, Bryan Fischer, Nancy Kurtz, Peter Morrill, Christopher Patterson, Lauren Schiszik, Susan Soderberg

MHT Staff: Andrew Arvizu

OAG Staff: Paul Cucuzzella

MDP Staff: Adam Gruz, Maria Sophia

Public Guest: John Rekas

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schrader called the meeting to order at 12:59 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Mendelsohn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Butanis, that the April 28 meeting minutes be approved with two corrections to Commissioner Villanueva's name, and the addition of Steve Allan as MHT staff present. The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

III. Financial Report

Mr. Allan reported that the treatment report for FY2020 monument conservation work for Maintenance Group 3 has been received and accepted.

Mr. Allan stated that the two bids received in response to an RFP for FY2021 funds which will be used for treatment of monuments in the Western Shore Region (Maintenance Group 4) were reviewed and that Wellman Conservation LLC was selected as the winning bidder. A contract for \$13,190 was awarded, and this work shall be completed by June 30, 2022*.

In addition, a scope of work amendment in the amount of \$2,500 was approved to include work on the John O'Neill monument (M241) and the Thomas Hicks memorial (M185) noted in the Maintenance Group 3 treatment report.

Commissioner Shipley asked if there was a list of all the monuments that we treat and associated costs. Commissioner Jewitt responded that the full inventory is online and was part of her binder, but does not include associated costs. Commissioner Mendelsohn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Butanis to accept the financial report as submitted. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Old Business

Fort Babcock Monument

Mr. Allan provided an update of the Fort Babcock monument in Port Covington. The base is in a storage lot in the area, the plaque is in the garage of Lou Giles, War of 1812 Society member, and the cannon is at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory (MAC Lab) at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum undergoing conservation. There is no word yet regarding new placement of the monument.

Mount Washington All Wars Monument

Mr. Allan showed photographs taken yesterday of the monument and the grounds at the intersection of Falls Road and Kelly Avenue in Baltimore, which is overgrown with weeds, but not to the extent previously. A loose stone base has been added to the site, and the weeds have been cleaned up, but the site is still overgrown. American Legion Post 2 in Hampden is the owner, and they are located about four miles from this location. We did send a letter to the Legion requesting a clean up, and action was taken as a result. Chair Schrader asked that we send another letter to the Legion, thanking them for their initial efforts but requesting another cleanup. Commissioner Rude suggested moving the monument to a more accessible location, and discussion ensued about the feasibility of that idea. Commissioner Villanueva stated that the monument belongs to the people of Mount Washington, who dedicated it in 1951.

Treatment Reports

Mr. Allan distributed hard copies of the FY2019 Treatment Report for Maintenance Group 3 - Western Maryland, to give the Commission a glimpse into the scope of work and conservation methods employed by the conservator in 2020. The scope of work addendum for monuments from the FY2020 work were shown on the screen - the aforementioned John O'Neill monument (M241) for iron stain removal and reduction of black sulfate crust on the Thomas Hicks memorial (M185) noted in the Maintenance Group 3 treatment report. The Elkton Doughboy monument (M169) was also shown, and concern was raised about the After Treatment photograph on Page 20 that appeared to show significant rust staining on the marble steps and base. Commissioner Rude suggested there are spray-on products that they manufacture to remedy that. Chair Schrader asked to put it on our to do list. Mr. Allan will look into it. Commissioner Rude also offered a tour of the Cathedral Stone Products facility in Hanover.

Monument Stripping and Rewaxing Treatment Funding

Mr. Allan reported on staff efforts to secure funding for the proposed monument stripping and rewaxing program. At \$27,000 per year, the projected cost is expected to be about \$100,000.

MHT Director Elizabeth Hughes had inquired about the possibility of bond bill funding to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Department of Legislative Services (DLS). Both agencies responded that conservation and maintenance of monuments would not be considered a capital expense, but might qualify for direct facility maintenance in MDPs operating budget. DBM's working definition of capital is 15-year useful life and project cost above \$100,000, but it would not rank high in the DGS facility maintenance program. DBM suggested it would be better as an operating budget item for MHT. It does not appear that federal funds are available for this purpose. It was suggested that a call between MHT and DBM-OBA be arranged, and that call is scheduled for August 2, which will include Deputy Secretary Schrader and Secretary McCord.

V. New Business

The next round of monuments to be treated is Maintenance Group 4: Western Shore - Anne Arundel, Calvert, Prince George's, Montgomery Counties. This work is expected to be undertaken in March or April, 2022.

M022 **Baron de Kalb Monument**, Annapolis
M027 **Monument to French Soldiers and Sailors**, Annapolis
M028 **St. John's College World War I Monument**, Annapolis
M044 **Henry Baldwin Memorial**, Crownsville
M148 **Calvert County World War I Monument**, M149 **World War II Monument**, M147 **Korea and Vietnam Monument**, Prince Frederick
M317 **World War I Monument**, Upper Marlboro
M311 **World War II Plaque** on Veterans Memorial, College Park
M266 **Braddock DAR Plaque**, Rockville
M267 **John C. Brown Memorial Bridge Plaque**, Rockville
M439 **Pikesville Armory World War I Memorial Gate**, Pikesville

Discussion ensued about monuments that are located outside the state, and what we do for them. There are 27 Maryland military monuments in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Stephenson, Spotsylvania and Winchester, Virginia, Natchez, Mississippi, Chattanooga, Tennessee and Brooklyn, New York, as well as a monument to the 29th Infantry Division in Normandy, France.

VI. Announcements

Battle of Brooklyn and Maryland 400 celebration. The event will take place this year but there will not be a bus trip from Maryland.

Maryland 250 Commission. A chair has been selected, and members are in the process of being selected.

2024 will be the 200th anniversary of General Lafayette's visit to the United States. Commemoration activities are in the planning stages.

The new National World War I Memorial will be dedicated November 11 in D.C. On November 12, a commemoration of buglers will occur at Arlington National Cemetery. Taps is sounded each day at the new World War I Memorial, located in Pershing Park on Pennsylvania Avenue between 14th and 15th Streets.

Challenge Medallions. We have selected 5 recipients, and awarded two. Chair Schrader wants all Commissioners to receive one, including Commissioner Wisniewski, who recently left the Commission and was the inspiration for the medallions.

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on October 27 at 100 Community Place in Crownsville, MD.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Villanueva and seconded by Commissioner Martel. Meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

*Administrative correction. The previous version stated 2021.