

Governor's Commission on Maryland Military Monuments

October 27, 2021 at 1:00 PM

APPROVED MINUTES

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; Stephen Hammond, Nancy Kurtz, Al Mendelsohn, Peter Morrill, C. Ryan Patterson, Lauren Schiszik, Raymond Shipley, Susan Soderberg, Stephen Hammond.

Commissioners on the Phone: Victor Butanis, Jenny Carson, Cheryl Jewitt, Gail Schnell, Jari Villanueva.

Commissioners Absent: Ellen Chase, David Craig, Bryan Fischer, Dennis Rude

MHT Staff: Steve Allan

OAG Staff: Paul Cucuzzella

MDP Staff: Adam Gruz, Maria Sofia

Public Guest: Mrs. Shipley

I. CALL TO ORDER

After a period of technical difficulties with the phone, computer and projector, Chair Schrader called the meeting to order at 1:24 PM. Christopher Ryan Patterson was introduced as the newest commissioner, and Chair Schrader asked that the Commissioners introduce themselves around the room and on the phone, starting with executive assistant Maria Sophia and MDP Chief of Staff Adam Gruz.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Patterson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Butanis, that the July 28 meeting minutes be approved. The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Allan presented the financial report.

- \$17,000 general fund budget restored and reserved for regular maintenance and conservation of 12 monuments in Western Shore region (Maintenance Group 4).
- Contract awarded for \$13,190. Work to be completed by June 30, 2022.
- Scope of work change order for work on O'Neill (M241) and Hicks (M185) monuments completed. Invoice rendered in the amount of \$3,250.
- Special fund balance \$3,438.

Commissioner Kurtz asked what the change order was for on the Hicks and O'Neill monuments. It was to address excessive biota on the upper part of the statuary on Hicks, and for rust stains from the cannon on the granite base on O'Neill. There are treatment reports for these two projects. Commissioner Mendelsohn asked if there was maintenance work done on the Talbot Boys monument, as it is to be removed. It was not part of last year's maintenance cycle.

Commissioner Patterson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Morrill, that the Financial Report be approved. The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the financial report.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Fort Babcock Monument

Mr. Allan provided an update of the Fort Babcock monument in Port Covington. The base is in a construction storage lot, the plaque is in a garage of a War of 1812 Society member, and the cannon has been conserved by the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory (MAC Lab) at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum. Chair Schrader stressed that this monument is not part of our program, we have no jurisdiction over it, and the ball is in their court. No decision has been made about where to display the monument. Commissioner Kurtz asked if we have been approached for assistance or advice. Mr. Allan replied that the Society asked about producing a new plaque. We do not have funds for that.

Elkton WWI Doughboy Monument

Mr. Allan described the cleaning agent that appeared to discolor the monument in a photo shown at the last meeting. The D2 chemical was activated while the 'after treatment' photo was taken, but it is left to work until rain washes the monument clean, as shown in the current photo taken on October 19. The issue is resolved.

Mount Washington All Wars Monument

Mr. Allan described a photograph taken October 7 of the monument and the grounds at the intersection of Falls Road and Kelly Avenue in Baltimore, which is looking better incrementally. There is a new base under the weeds, but it is looking better. Chair Schrader remarked that it is, unfortunately, a very awkward place (for a monument) at such a busy intersection that is difficult to access or appreciate. However, it looks so much better than it did four months ago, and they (the stewards) are doing the best they can with what they have, so there isn't really a need for further action. This issue is resolved.

Challenge Medallions.

Chair Schrader held up an example of the friendship challenge medallion in the holder that we purchased. The medallion moves around inside the holder, so we are going to examine ways of securing it. A decision was made to present each current member of the Commission with an engraved medallion at the January meeting.

Monument Stripping and Rewaxing Treatment Funding

This is in the works. A budget request has been submitted.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Maintenance Group 4

Mr. Allan presented slides of the next round of monuments to be treated is Maintenance Group 4: Western Shore – which includes Anne Arundel, Calvert, Prince George's, Montgomery counties.

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

29th Infantry Division Memorial in Normandy, France

Commissioner Mendelsohn discussed slides taken on his trip to Normandy, of the monument dedicated on the 50th Anniversary of D Day, June 6, 1994, in honor of the 29th Division (Blue and Gray Division of Maryland and Virginia). The brass plaque could use some maintenance. The 29th Division Association is responsible for the plaque. Commissioner Morrill asked if there are condition assessments at other monuments out of state, such as Gettysburg. Commissioner Kurtz replied that this had been done in the past, but not recently. It might be a good idea to do that, perhaps after the rewaxing program gets underway.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Shipley announced that Maryland Public Television (MPT) is airing a four-part series about Veteran's Day. Maria will find the link and send it out to the Commission.

Commissioner Mendelsohn commended us for updating the Monuments website.

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on January 26 at 100 Community Place in Crownsville, MD.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Hammond and seconded by Commissioner Morrill. Meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.