



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Patriotic Committee

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187



RECEIVED
20 SEP -3 AM 9:13
ELLINGTON
TOWN CLERK

Members

Joe Boucher
Jonathan Cohen
Ted C. Graziani
Sara Landon
Cheryl Samborski
Christian Sauer
James Sydoriak
Bruce Warkentin

Chairman
John Takach

Vice-Chairman
John Chandler

Secretary
Rhonda Villanova

August 25, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

In attendance: John Takach, Bruce Warkentin, Christian Sauer, Joe Boucher, Cheryl Samborski, Rhonda Villanova, John Chandler, and new members Jonathan Cohen and James Sydoriak

John T. welcomed our new members.

Approval of last meeting minutes: Joe 1st, Chris 2nd; motion approved

Old Business:

John T. asked Chris to review the medallion order status. Chris ordered 43 bronze star medallions from The Flag Guys in Newburgh, New York and drove out to pick them up. He received the last two medallions from Al Lewandosky, and he repaired 3. There are many more medallions needed. We should plan to budget for more each year, along with the flags, as annual expenses. We ordered 6 gross flags this past year which covers every cemetery: Charter, Kinstry, Center and Crystal Lake.

For the benefit of our new members, John T. reviewed the committee's activities including placing flags/picking up flags, collecting retired flags, WAA, and Memorial Day ceremonies.

John T. reviewed the "Hands Touching Hearts" project run by Ann Cosgrove working through Joe Palombizio (Ellington's Veteran Liaison) in order to celebrate surviving WWII Veterans in town. Last week a service was held for Frank DeGray. John said the ceremony was very nice. Mr. DeGray told some very interesting stories regarding his service in World War II. Another ceremony is planned for Fran Benevidis tomorrow (Wednesday, August 26th) here at the Town Hall at 6:00 p.m.

The veteran statue that Joe Palombizio raised money for may possibly be installed in October. There is supposed to be landscaping and lighting installed along with a bench in addition to the statue itself.

Cheryl told the committee that the Women's Auxiliary in Ellington has officially closed down. She and Doreen Ward will work with the Vernon group. A couple of the other members were going to work with the Somers' group.

The WAA program is ON for this year, scheduled for noon, December 19th. The committee pre-ordered 345 wreaths from the "5 wreaths for the price of 2" special in January. We will need to start advertising mid-October to give time for others to order. The cut off for ordering is usually November 30th. John C. has signs. There are (4) double-sided signs. That should be enough if they are placed at the usual places. Chris listed the usual spots as Brookside, Center cemetery, Pinney Street, Johnny Appleseed, and Casey's. Last year flyers were placed in numerous businesses around town as well. The cost of (4) single-sided signs we bought last year was approximately \$270. Chris suggested maybe we should buy (2) more double-sided signs to have (6) total.

John C. agreed and made a motion to order two doubled-sided signs. Joe 1st; Cheryl 2nd; motion approved.

Joe suggested a sign be placed on the way out of the cemetery to allow those people that actually frequent the cemetery to stop and read the details. Also, a sign should be placed at Crystal Lake. John T. said he could get the needed T-posts from the Tractor Supply Store.

New Business:

Rhonda reminded the committee that Steven is no longer considered a Student Representative now that he has graduated high school. With the schools doing hybrid and other than normal scheduling, she asked how the committee wants to proceed with reaching out to find a replacement. We want people that are interested in the goals of the committee. Suggestions included posting on Facebook, John T. can ask the Scouts that are old enough, and committee members can spread word through family members with high school students.

Motion to adjourn: Joe 1st, Cheryl 2nd; motion approved

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 22, 2020, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room unless notified otherwise

Submitted by:
Rhonda Villanova

