STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
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TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Patriotic Committee

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

Chairman
Christian Sauer

Vice-Chairman
John Takach

Secretary
Rhonda Villanova

Members
Joe Boucher
Ted C. Graziani
Sara Landon
James Lavey
Cheryl Samborski
Bruce Warkentin

Student Representative
John M. Takach
Steven Villanova

March 22, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

In attendance: Christian Sauer, Bruce Warkentin, Joe Boucher, John Takach, Rhonda Villanova, Cheryl Samborski, and James Lavey; via Zoom: Sara Landon

Approval of January meeting minutes: A motion was made to approve minutes, Joe 1st, Cheryl 2nd; all in favor, motion approved.

Introductions were made to our newest member, James Lavey.

WAA
Chris reported there are currently 320 credited wreaths. The totals still don't seem to fully reflect the correct number of wreaths that were paid for with checks from multiple groups. Bruce said he would check up on it. Chris said there seemed to be a discrepancy from wreaths coded with the Ellington Cemetery vs the Patriotic Committee.

New Business
Memorial Day (May 30th): Chris listed off the items from the task schedule for the month. The forms to reserve use of the high school are in process. The invitation letters for the parades were completed last Monday and signed. The invitations have an April 9th reply date, which gives time to confirm the organizations received them. The flag order was taken care of by Chris. April tasks include the road use forms sent to the Department of Transportation for the parade routes.

John asked whether the Army is going to do the fly-over or the same program as last year. It was also decided the C130 was fine for the fly-over.

It was asked whether the Rockville unit Color Guard was going to be available – they may not be able to participate in the auditorium ceremony due to the Vernon schedule, but tentatively, they are a yes for the parade at the center of town. John asked if Sara coordinated the Color Guard last year and would she do it again? Sara said she would.

Rhonda read an introduction to the speech Steven read at the previous meeting. She will send the speech with the introduction to the whole committee so everyone has a copy. She reminded the committee that this speech was only about 6 or 7 minutes. There was a discussion about having another speaker. They wouldn't need to speak for very long. John said he would reach out to a local veteran.

Chris asked about student speakers. It was determined that only one high school and one middle school student would be needed for the speeches this year.

Joe recommended that all the speakers be on stage, since last year it seemed to be more efficient in keeping to the schedule. John will get a message to Mr. Delassus to find out if the band will be able to participate in the auditorium this year. If the band is on stage we will not have someone sing the National Anthem. Steven will be available to sing if the band is not able to perform inside. Also, John will put in the request for two buglers for Taps.

Chris, as the emcee, will need a clipboard. Rhonda will get a copy of the script to Chris to start editing as needed. As responses are received for participation, she will also be plugging names into the programs and the script.

Chris reported that he put out 41 new medallions, which makes it 151 overall in the past few years. He predicts an average of about 25 new medallions a year. Joe keeps a list of new Veteran burials. The Eagle Project from several years ago and the Cemetery Association grid of Veteran graves needs to be reconciled. Joe said there were approximately 35 or so Veterans buried at the Crystal Lake Cemetery.

Chris asked if the Boy Scouts could straighten the medallions as they go through with the flags.

Regarding the POW table, Chris asked if Al and Bruce could do it this year. Bruce said he would talk to Al, but he would be able to do it. Amazing Grace will be played during the POW table ceremony again.

Bruce will contact the Bagpipe group to see if they can participate in the day's events.

Rhonda shared the updated Roll Call video. Meidel Hansen's picture had been the only one missing from the video. Rhonda asked the committee if we would want to incorporate this Roll Call portion of the video into the ceremony at the high school in some way. Joe asked if it could be made into a Powerpoint slideshow to go along with the snare drum and poppy drop. Rhonda said she could do that. John will have JJ or Logan check on the sound system and the projection apparatus at the high school and find someone to run them.

Motion to adjourn: Joe 1st, John T. 2nd; all in favor, motion approved.
Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 26, 2022, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room unless notified otherwise.
Submitted by: Rhonda Villanova