



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Patriotic Committee

Chairman
Christian Sauer

Vice-Chairman
John Takach

Secretary
Rhonda Villanova

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



Members
Joe Boucher
Jacob Cawthorn
Christian Cuthbert
Paul Fiasconaro
Sara Landon
James Lavey
John O'Shaughnessy
Robert Poggie
Cheryl Samborski
Bruce Warkentin
Student Representative
Kashish Koul
Aarush Kumar
Logan Takach

January 28, 2025

Present: Chris Sauer, Joseph Boucher, John Takach, Logan Takach, Bruce Warkentin, Rhonda Villanova, Christian Cuthbert, Paul Fiasconaro and John O'Shaughnessy; via ZOOM: Cheryl Samborski and Aarush Kumar

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chris Sauer

Pledge of Allegiance

Election of Officers

Chair Chris Sauer stated it was time to elect officers. The committee engaged in a short discussion. Motion to reinstate the current slate of officers: Chris Sauer as Chairman, John Takach as Vice-Chair, and Rhonda Villanova as Secretary: Boucher 1st, O'Shaughnessy 2nd, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Review of Budget

Chris Sauer reviewed the expenditures from July 1, 2024 to January 28, 2025 and expected expenses through to the end of June. He approximated the amount available for the P.O.W. Memorial upgrades. The new budget for next fiscal year will be \$5250.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve December 10, 2024 meeting minutes: Boucher 1st, Takach 2nd, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

WAA: Chris Sauer reported we were short about 50 wreaths for our ceremony. Bruce Warkentin will be handling the correction. Due to donations that came in after the cut-off for last year, the committee is starting the year with about \$300 for WAA 2025. The WAA website said we hit our goal of 700 (actually 699.2), but they cannot come up with a final official count until March. Chris needs to be reimbursed for \$800 which includes a \$50 donation. Motion to reimburse Chris Sauer \$750 from the budget and \$50 from the donation account: Warkentin 1st, Samborski 2nd; all in favor, motion passed unanimously. Chris detailed further that the Fire Department donation did not get the 3 for 2 discount –

WAA requires the code for our organization be used to earn the discount. WAA is not automatically applying "Ellington" donations to our code. Also, a correspondence from WAA stated they were changing the discount structure. There will no longer be a buy 3, get 2 free. It will be a \$5 rebate for every wreath sold – so buy 4, get 1 free. John Takach said the letters to sponsors this year should include the change in discount structure and the need for assistance in reaching our goal. Chris estimated we would need to raise funds for an additional 100 wreaths.

John Takach reported the banner program announcement is on the town website. Notices have gone up in a few places that explain the details and criteria. The goal is to start with 20 banners. There is a March 1st deadline. The sample banner is currently at the Senior Center and will be moving to Hall Memorial Library next. Chris Sauer heard from Al Lewandosky that the American Legion wants to donate. The price was reduced to \$125 per banner due to local businesses contributing.

The Flag pole project has not progressed further since the last meeting. Joe Boucher went to take pictures of the current situation. Chris Sauer said he found a light for the flagpole for \$30. Flag etiquette needs to be remembered for lighting the flag, but a nice light and a little landscaping will be needed.

New Business:

CT's 250th Anniversary – July 4th 2026 will be the 250th Anniversary of our country. The state of Connecticut sent out information for each town to start planning if they wished to do something for the milestone. A letter was received from Sharon McLaughlin of the Ellington Congregational Church asking if we would like to be an integral part of the planning for the celebration. There are a couple of organizations that would also be involved. The committee discussed options including a parade. The committee determined a planning group made of representatives from the interested parties should be formed. Chris will notify Sharon of that determination.

Motion to adjourn: Boucher 1st, Cuthbert 2nd; all in favor, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Next Meeting: February 25, 2024, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room unless notified otherwise.

Submitted by:

Rhonda Villanova

AHPC Secretary

