



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

February 25, 2025

Present: Chris Sauer, Joseph Boucher, John Takach, Logan Takach, Bruce Warkentin, Rhonda Villanova, James Lavey and Aarush Kumar; via ZOOM: Cheryl Samborski and Kashish Koul

**Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chris Sauer**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Motion to approve January 28, 2025 meeting minutes: Boucher 1<sup>st</sup>, Sauer 2<sup>nd</sup>, with correction to number of wreaths – 300 total, not \$300; all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business:**

John Takach shared information on the 250<sup>th</sup> - July 4, 2026 celebration and the Banner program. The consensus was that the July 4<sup>th</sup> planning should be run through the town. Once the interested parties are identified, a point person from each party can be assigned to attend planning meetings. The Banner posting brought (2) nominations so far. The social media advertisements need to be renewed. The display is still at the Senior Center. It should be moved to the library. The deadline was supposed to be March 1<sup>st</sup>. John will meet with Rebecca Stack to review everything and hopefully get the deadline pushed out at least a couple of weeks.

**New Business:**

Memorial Day – The National Guard already sent out flyover instructions. Julia Connor at town hall has started filing for permits. The committee will start the search for a special speaker for the Memorial Day ceremony at the high school. Bruce Warkentin and John Takach have some ideas of where to start. Bruce also spoke about the VFW's Patriot Pen Essay for 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders. There were two winners this year. A third person will be chosen to recite In Flanders Fields.

Rhonda Villanova will be sending out the Task list for Memorial Day since there are several new members on the committee.

CT's 250<sup>th</sup> – July 4<sup>th</sup> – Joe Boucher wondered whether the town had archived details about the 1976 celebration in town. The committee members brainstormed ideas such as a musical group, fife & drum corp, the Governor's Foot Guard, the CT National Guard marching band, the Vernon National Guard Band unit, and Ellington Singers. A parade including appropriate floats and decorations from the high school to the green where organizations have celebratory displays, refreshment offerings, musical entertainment (patriotic songs), a speech or two from notable members of the community. Cheryl Samborski offered an option, if no bands were available, to have a Boombox parade like Willimantic has done in the past. Lyrics for the songs can be handed out ahead of time. Activities for the kids can be included, patriotic face painting, games, and the like, to be determined by the participating organizations. Aarush Kumar is tasked with getting a contact for the high school face painting club.

**Motion to adjourn:** Boucher 1<sup>st</sup>, Samborski 2<sup>nd</sup>; all in favor, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

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

Submitted by:  
Rhonda Villanova  
AHPC Secretary

