



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

April 22, 2025

Present: Chris Sauer, Joseph Boucher, John Takach, Bruce Warkentin, Rhonda Villanova, John O'Shaughnessy, Paul Fiasconaro, and Logan Takach; via ZOOM: Cheryl Samborski, James Lavey, Sara Landon, and Aarush Kumar; Guest: John Streiber

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chris Sauer

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve March 25, 2025 meeting minutes: Boucher 1st, Takach 2nd; all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Bruce Warkentin announced the names for the Patriot Pen Essay winners and the Flander's Field reading. He will send the names to Rhonda Villanova for the program. Student Representatives Kashish Koul and Aarush Kumar will need to confirm whether they will be reading Gettysburg Address and Logan's General Order on Memorial Day. Rhonda will send a reminder email. If either of them is not able to make the ceremony, either Logan Takach or another high school student will be needed.

Chris Sauer reported the tractor-pulled wagon will be available for seniors, vets, and speakers to ride in the parade.

John Takach reported the Girl Scouts were contacted. The Fly-over has been scheduled and approved. Also, prospective speakers for the ceremony were not available or did not respond. Christian Cuthbert said previously he had someone he could contact. John will call Christian to initiate contact with that person to see if they are available. John also told the committee he was going to speak with someone about the flagpole project this week.

John Takach will be contacting the Boy Scouts arranging to put flags out on the Thursday prior to Memorial Day, May 22nd, at 6:00 p.m. Joe Boucher and Chris Sauer will be meeting to put the crosses on the green on May 22nd at 5:00 p.m.

Sara Landon reported that the paperwork for the unit to march has been signed.

Chris Sauer informed the committee that 8 new medallions were placed, one of the new Veteran burials was a Crystal Lake Cemetery.

New Business:

John Streiber joined the meeting to discuss the (4) Honor Guard volleys performed at Crystal Lake and Town Center/Cemetery. John talked to Matt Reed, Sgt. Brian Santa, and the Fire Department for consensus on the best way to approach for safety, security, standard operating procedures and inspections. John and one or two of his colleagues are offering to handle this portion of the ceremonies. The committee agreed to hand this task to John's team to ensure strict adherence to procedures.

John Takach gave an update on the Banner Project. The first round will include 20 banners. Bruce Warkentin and Al Lewandoski were included in this round. The banners will hopefully be up before Memorial Day under the guidance of Human Services. They will be placed on town lampposts around Arbor Park and heading towards the library.

Cheryl Samborski will be providing the wreath for the town green. Joe Boucher will be picking it up from her by May 21st.

Sara Landon asked if the Army National Guard unit contacted John Takach. They meet every Wednesday. He should hear from them by the end of this coming week. She will contact if he does not hear from them by then.

Logan Takach will be following up with Mr. DeLassus and Mr. Diamond for confirmations on (2) buglers for Taps in the cemeteries, choral group/soloists for the National Anthem, and Drop the Bass choral group for Taps in the high school auditorium.

Chris Sauer reminded Logan of the requests for a light for the podium and a speaker on the stage so we can hear ourselves speak.

The next America 250 meeting is scheduled for April 28th at 7:00 p.m., in the Mc Knight Conference room at Hall Memorial Library.

Motion to adjourn: Boucher 1st, Takach 2nd; all in favor, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Next Meeting: Special meeting scheduled for March 13, 2024, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room unless notified otherwise.

Submitted by:
Rhonda Villanova
AHPC Secretary

