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

Chairman
Christian Sauer

Vice-Chairman
John Takach

Secretary
Rhonda Villanova

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

November 25 2025

Present: Chris Sauer, John Takach, Joseph Boucher, Rhonda Villanova, Christain Cuthbert, and John O'Shaugnessy; ZOOM: Cheryl Samborski

Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Chris Sauer

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Meeting Minutes:
Motion to approve September 2025 meeting minutes: Boucher 1st; O'Shaugnessy 2nd ; all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:
Chris Sauer gave wreath order updates for Wreaths Across America - 574, 82% of goal. There is one more week for orders to come in - the deadline is December 1st. Social media posts need to be reposted, including the town's notice. The flags have been cleaned out from the cemetery and memorials.

John Takach spoke with the foreman regarding the flagpole. John Streiber is on board for the electrical portion of the job. There is $600 set aside for the flagpole work. John is going to order from Liberty Flagpoles (aluminum estate series), American made, 25' (exposed), that runs about $945 with $479 shipping. The committee discussed ways to get the flagpole to its destination, possibly renting a truck to deliver it from Hampton, Massachusetts. Motion (Takach), seconded (Cuthbert), to allocate up to $1600 for securing a 25' flagpole with shipping, and additionally an order of US/POW/MIA flags, and landscaping for around the flagpole and memorial; all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

New Business:
Small flags have been ordered. The auto-delivery information needs to be updated from Bruce Warkentin to a new contact. John Takach will update the information.

The wreaths will be delivered to the cemetery. Joe Boucher will put them inside. They should be coming as early as the Wednesday before. On December 13th, whomever is available to get to the cemetery around 11:00 can help bring the boxes out and place them around the cemetery.

Chris Sauer has the scripts for the WAA ceremony.

John Takach will bring the two speakers and the canopy. The request for buglers needs to be sent to Mr. Delassus and an invitation to our new First Selectman, Laurie Burstein.

On January 5, 2026 letters will go out to vendors/sponsors for America 250. Any funds not used will come to the AHPC.

The committee discussed whether to make a request for Sheldon's Horse to be included in our Memorial Day ceremony/parades. They charge up to $1000 if they include their horses and a group (3-4) of their members for the parade, but we can request just a speaker for the EHS ceremony (10 – 15 minutes). A request can be sent for what the breakdown fees would be.

WAA ceremony is on December 13th, at noon. The attending committee members should arrive prior to the start for set up and script assignment if interested.

Motion to adjourn: Boucher 1st, Samborski 2nd; all in favor, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Next Meeting: December 9th, 2025, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room unless notified otherwise.

Submitted by:
Rhonda Villanova
AHPC Secretary