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
Bruce Warkentin
Student Representative
Kashish Koul
Aarush Kumar
Logan Takach

August 26, 2025

Present: Chris Sauer, John Takach, Joseph Boucher, Bruce Warkentin, Rhonda Villanova, Christian Cuthbert, John O'Shaughnessy, ZOOM: Sara Landon, James Lavey.

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chris Sauer

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Old Business:
The next meeting for America 250 is September 15th at Hall Memorial Library at 7:00 p.m.. The big event is scheduled for October 3, 2026.

Bruce Warkentin spoke with someone from Sheldon's Horse at the last Veteran Coffeehouse at the library. The person said they could supply 2 horses and a few men, and more upon discussion. We need to get our request in.

Regarding the Banner Program, John O'Shaughnessy asked if there were any funds for the Banner Program's next run. There may be funds received for the last run that missed the deadline that remain for the next run. Human Services will have that information.

Joe Boucher asked whether the committee encumbered any funds from last year to this year. Chris Sauer responded that $600 is earmarked for the flagpole and donations for the banners.

New Business:
Rhonda Villanova reached out to the Connecticut 2nd Continental Light Dragoons/Sheldon's Horse for the October 2026/America 250 event. It seems Bruce Warkentin may have met the person at the Veteran Coffeehouse that Rhonda will be talking to about the event.

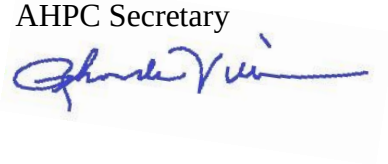
Bruce Warkentin had an announcement. He will be moving to New Jersey. He will be transferring responsibilities for Patriot's Pen/communications with the schools over to someone else in the next couple of months.

Chris Sauer announced the date for Wreaths Across America – December 13th at noon. The committee currently has 337 wreaths (48.3% of goal). The letters need to be prepared to send out for donations. Chris will update the signs for the event.

Joe Boucher asked whether Flag Day went well. It was less than 2 hours, he asked if the October date will be needed. John Takach asked the scouts if the October date is doable and if there were enough flags to burn.

Joe Boucher asked whether there was any activity on the new flagpole. John Takach will make a list of sites and prices and talk to Tom from Public Works. He can bring the information back to the Patriotic Committee.

Motion to adjourn: Boucher 1st, O'Shaughnessy 2nd; all in favor, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 23th, 2025, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room unless notified otherwise.

Submitted by:
Rhonda Villanova
AHPC Secretary