



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

June 24, 2025

Present: Chris Sauer, Joseph Boucher, Bruce Warkentin, Rhonda Villanova, John O'Shaughnessy, Aarush Kumar. ZOOM had technical difficulties, Cheryl Samborski and James Lavey were disconnected.

Meeting called to order at 7:12 p.m. by Chris Sauer

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve May 14, 2025 meeting minutes: Boucher 1st, Warkentin 2nd; all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Chris Sauer thanked the committee for the efforts put forth for Memorial Day events. There was no rain and no problems noted.

Joe Boucher had a few comments regarding Memorial Day, one of which was about the fly-over, which can be addressed for next year. The other comment regarded attendance, which seemed to be down from previous years. The committee agreed that participation in the parades was down and attendance was down to watch the parades, although the final area at the green seemed to be well attended. Joe also noted that Channel 30 and 3, in their listing of Memorial Day events, Ellington's parades and ceremony were not listed. Notification of local news should be on the task list for next year. Joe asked whether there was room in the budget to get the rifles worked on. Chris said he was looking at trading them in for newer ones.

John O'Shaughnessy noted there was a third bugler, an elderly gentleman, who provided the 2nd echo to Taps.

Chris recapped expenses for the year. To finalize payments for Memorial Day programs; Motion to reimburse Rhonda Villanova for printing of Memorial Day programs in the amount of \$51.20; Boucher 1st, O'Shaughnessy 2nd, all in favor; motion passed unanimously.

Motion to donate \$100 to the Vernon Color Guard for their participation in the day's events; Boucher 1st, O'Shaughnessy 2nd, all in favor; motion passed unanimously.

Flag Day – Joe Boucher shared that activities were postponed to June 30th and asked if something could be put on the town website.

Veteran Banners- The consensus was the banners looked good and will be up until Veteran's Day. John O'Shaughnessy asked if they will be returned to the Veteran's families after Veteran's Day. Human Services is overseeing the project, giving them to the families was the initial plan, although rumors have been heard to the contrary.

Chris Sauer reported that any money left in the budget would be encumbered to be put towards the flag pole project after the end of the current fiscal year.

New Business:

The next America 250 meeting is scheduled for July 7th at 7:00 p.m., at Hall Memorial Library. Information was shared from the last meeting. The committee discussed ideas to embed the America 250 theme into Memorial Day next year, possibly with costumed marchers representing the Army in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, and all services in WWI and WWII. On the day of the America 250 parade and activities, the Patriotic Committee might want to have a booth with people in costumes representing the different wars and handing out flags. It was mentioned to contact the Civil War Museum for contacts or recommendations.

Motion to adjourn: Boucher 1st, O'Shaughnessy 2nd; all in favor, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Next Meeting: No meeting in July, next meeting is August 26th, 2025, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room unless notified otherwise.

Submitted by:
Rhonda Villanova
AHPC Secretary

