



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

March 25, 2025

Present: Chris Sauer, Joseph Boucher, John Takach, Bruce Warkentin, Rhonda Villanova, Christian Cuthbert, John O'Shaughnessy, Paul Fiasconaro, Kashish Koul and Logan Takach; via ZOOM: James Lavey, Sara Landon, and Aarush Kumar

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve February 25, 2025 meeting minutes: Takach 1st, O'Shaughnessy 2nd; all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

John Takach reported on the Banner Program which received 14 applications. The program received one donation to help cover costs of an additional applicant. The committee discussed nominations for the funding the committee is providing. This cycle of the program will include 3 of the 17 Ellington fallen list. Each cycle will include a few more names until all have been honored. The applications were reviewed, all included the required documentation.

Chris Sauer contacted Wreaths Across America regarding the credit for wreaths that were missed from last year. The count for WAA 2025 is up to 325. Chris would like to purchase 7 gross of the small flags for Memorial Day at \$31.99 per gross. The total will be about \$247 with shipping. Motion to approve \$250 to purchase 7 gross @ \$31.99/gross totaling \$247 for Memorial Day: Takach 1st, Cuthbert 2nd; all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

The topic of a speaker for the Memorial Day EHS ceremony was discussed. A few people were contacted. The committee is still waiting for a response.

New Business:

Memorial Day - The contact, invitation list, and task list were reviewed. Bruce Warkentin had the Patriot Pen's presentation. The winners are lined up for Memorial Day. Chris Sauer said the permits

should all be in process at this time. Logan Takach was tasked with contacting Mr. Diamond regarding either a soloist or a small group for the Crystal Lake Cemetery, the EHS ceremony, and the Town green for the National Anthem. Mr Delassus should be contacted for (2) buglers for both cemeteries to perform Echo Taps. John Takach reported that the Fly-over has been requested. Sara Landon can start the forms for the National Guard unit to march but needs an AHPC member to sign them.

Student Representatives, Kashish Koul and Aarush Kumar, will be assigned a reading for the EHS ceremony if they are available. The readings will be determined at the April meeting.

Memorial Day is earlier this year. The May meeting will need to be moved. Chris Sauer will make sure the committee has a meeting space on May 13th.

The Volley Salutes were discussed. The committee will invite John Streiber to our next meeting.

There was a question about contacting Bundy Motors since Jerry Bundy passed away. Ted Graziani usually hand delivered the invitation. Ted will be contacted.

Chris Sauer will ask Lori Spielman about the wagon that was used in previous parades.

A tech person will be needed at EHS for sound and the Powerpoint presentation. Chris Sauer requested a light on the podium and a monitor speaker. Logan Takach will inquire about a tech person, the light and speaker. He will share information with Kashish Koul and Aarush Kumar.

Chris Sauer has the POW/MIA table kit. He will replace batteries for the candle. Bruce Warkentin has a supply of poppies.

CT's America 250th – July 4th 2026 planning – John Takach reported on the first meeting of the America 250 committee. The next meeting will be April 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the McKnight meeting room of the library. The meeting was attended by members of the Fire Department, Public Works, Hall Memorial Library, the Historical Society, Pinney House, Ellington Congregational Church, and the 1st Selectman, Lori Spielman. Much of the discussion was around timing of town events so schools (i.e., marching bands and the like) could participate in addition to the in-school events. Other school and town events will need to be considered. The kick-off begins with the anniversary of Paul Revere's Ride on April 18 – 19th. There will be a "Two Lanterns" in the window initiative. Hall Memorial Library will be offering a paper lantern craft.

Motion to adjourn: Boucher 1st, Takach 2nd; all in favor, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 22, 2024, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room unless notified otherwise.

Submitted by:
Rhonda Villanova
AHPC Secretary

