



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
John O'Shaughnessy
Cheryl Samborski
Student Representative
Kashish Koul
Aarush Kumar
Logan Takach

April 28, 2026

Present: Chris Sauer, Joseph Boucher, Christian Cuthbert, Paul Fiasconaro, Rhonda Villanova, John O'Shaughnessy, and Cheryl Samborski

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chris Sauer

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve March 24, 2026 meeting minutes; Boucher 1st; O'Shaughnessy 2nd; all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Chris Sauer reported that John Takach got the final cost for the flag pole and accessories from Liberty Flagpoles - \$1746. This total is slightly higher than previously approved. Motion to authorize the revised cost of a new flagpole and accessories for the POW/MIA monument area; Boucher 1st, O'Shaughnessy 2nd; all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Chris Sauer reviewed budget expenditures. Considering remaining funds, Chris would like to purchase flags (6 gross), in the amount of \$230, for Memorial Day. Motion to authorize the purchase of flags (6 gross) for Memorial Day; Samborski 1st, O'Shaughnessy 2nd; all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

The applicants for the Veteran Banner Program have been reviewed; there are 26 names. Motion to approve all 26 names for the Veteran Banner Program; O'Shaughnessy 1st, Samborski 2nd; all in favor, passed unanimously.

Memorial Day update:

All permits have been submitted, including the fly-over request.

Requests for buglers, Band and Singers from the EHS music program have been submitted to Mr. Delassus and Mr. Diamond.

Cheryl Samborski made inquiries with the Historical Society about costumed re-enactors to bring the America 250 element into Memorial Day. They did not have any contacts to share.

Laurie Burstein will be speaking at Crystal Lake Cemetery and Ellington High School ceremonies.

Chris has the POW/MIA kit/box. He will check on every item to make sure the kit is complete and ready.

Cheryl will be reconstructing the wreath. Joe Boucher will place it before the ceremony.

The Boy Scouts should be all set for flag placement the Thursday prior to Memorial Day.

Chris and Joe: The crosses need to be cleaned and checked before they are placed.

Rhonda Villanova is working on the programs for Crystal Lake and Ellington High School. Names for student speakers (In Flanders Field, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, Logan's General Order) and Patriot Pen Essay winners are still needed. Rhonda will also create a Save the Date insert for the October 3rd America 250 event.

Chris will contact Ted Graziani about the VFW Patriot Pen Essay winners. He will get the names of those who will be reading their essays at the EHS ceremony.

Paul Fiasconaro will write up his introduction and send to Rhonda.

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

Next Meeting: May 12, 2026, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room unless notified otherwise.

Submitted by:
Rhonda Villanova
AHPC Secretary

