



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

May 20, 2026

Present: Chris Sauer, Joseph Boucher, John Takach, Paul Fiasconaro, Rhonda Villanova, and John O'Shaughnessy

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chris Sauer

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve April 28, 2026 meeting minutes; O'Shaughnessy 1st; Boucher 2nd; all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Chris Sauer reported that First Selectman Laurie Burstein agreed to speak at each ceremony for Memorial Day. He also shared that he had not ordered flags because they were not guaranteed to be delivered in time. The funds for the flags can be encumbered and used to order the flags at a later date.

POW/MIA – Joe Boucher will pick up the table and accessories from Chris to get them to the high school. John Takach will read the script for setting the table. Chris will set the table at the ceremony.

Flags and crosses – The Boy Scouts are scheduled to put up the flags at the cemeteries on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. Chris and Joe are scheduled to set up the crosses on the green. Kenny Willis (lawn contractor) will take care of Charter Cemetery.

Weather forecasts are predicting rain on Monday. A decision will need to be made by 5:30 a.m. on Monday to put out a notice on the town website if the first or both parades need to be cancelled. The high school ceremony does not get cancelled if it rains.

John Takach confirmed Army participation in the Main Street parade.

Musicians/Buglers/Chorus members have all been confirmed. Joe Boucher confirmed the need to set up reserved seating for the Choral members.

John Takach requested copies of “In Flanders Field” and the Gettysburg Address to send to Alex Schneider and Tristan Ruszcyk, respectively. It was determined to also note that both are Boy Scouts in the program.

Chris Sauer determined if there was a shortage of flag carriers, the Boy Scouts can assist.

Paul Fiasconaro requested a copy of the Scripts document from Rhonda Villanova. Rhonda said she would send copies of the Script and programs to the committee members.

There was a brief discussion about the blockade of the road in front of the high school. The police leave the blockade too early. Joe Boucher will be wearing his orange vest to assist with traffic.

Pastor Sandy Knapp from the Crystal Lake United Methodist Church has been provided information for the Crystal Lake cemetery ceremony.

Rhonda Villanova will finalize the programs by Saturday to make copies. She will create a Save the Date insert for the America 250 event on October 3rd.

New Business:

Flag Day is June 14th, which is a Sunday. The Boy Scouts are asking about scheduling. It should be at 6:00 p.m. as usual unless the weather is uncooperative.

John Takach reported the new flag pole is on its way. It has been paid for and will arrive at DPW. Taylor will set it up. The orphaned flag pole still has flags on it. Joe Boucher will take the flags off on Thursday after setting up the crosses.

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

Next Meeting: June 23, 2026, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room unless notified otherwise.

Submitted by:
Rhonda Villanova
AHPC Secretary

