



# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

## Ad Hoc Patriotic Committee

**Chairman**  
Peter Hany, Jr.

**Vice Chairman**  
Bruce Warkentin

**Secretary**  
Rhonda Villanova

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TOWN CLERK

**Members**  
Joe Boucher  
Wilson D. Flynn  
Ted C. Graziani  
Daniel Joy  
Alan Lewandosky  
Cheryl Samborski  
John Takach  
Dennis Varney

**Student Representatives**  
Miranda Graziani  
Steven Villanova

January 23, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:08 p.m.

**In attendance were:** Bruce Warkentin, Joe Boucher, Dennis Varney, Rhonda Villanova, Pete Hany, Jr., Steven Villanova, and Ted Graziani

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Motion to Approve last Meeting Minutes** Joe 1<sup>st</sup>, Dennis 2<sup>nd</sup>

**WAA debriefing:** The consensus was that there was a great turnout, probably “best by far”. There were approximately 350 wreaths. Ted reported that another town gave a donation for WAA, which added to our increase in wreaths as well.

Publicity was increased from previous years, including Facebook notices earlier in the year and the town’s quarterly magazine, the Lion’s Club via Dennis Varney. A discussion regarding starting to publicize at the Memorial Day ceremony at the high school included ideas for a poster and flyers in the foyer. The WAA ceremony for 2018 will be held on December 15<sup>th</sup> (per the WAA website).

The PA system was not loud enough, but it also depended on the closeness of the mic. The speaker should probably be placed higher. The Ellington High School buglers were very good. The Governor’s Foot Guard was a nice touch. The committee wasn’t sure if Wilson contacted Bob Butler or called directly to arrange for the Foot Guard. The Gun Salute was a VFW group. There were concerns about dwindling membership, but the Tolland VFW did just recently join Ellington Post 10689, so it raised the membership to approximately 115.

The Boy Scouts did not take flags down. As John Takach was not present, the committee was not sure if he had contacted the new Scouts leader, Doug Stratoudakis, as stated in November’s meeting minutes. Joe took care of the flags being collected. Dennis said they may have helped with placement of the wreaths due to the snow and the flag stones of some of the veterans.

The national WAA designates January 20<sup>th</sup> as clean up day (Retiring of the Wreaths). The committee discussed having the Boy Scouts and/or EHS students that needed volunteer hours to do clean up of the town cemeteries so it doesn’t stay until spring. Current disposal would be in a dumpster. They cannot be recycled due to the wire framework. Joe would like to speak/meet with the Boy Scouts regarding flag placement. It was also mentioned that June 14<sup>th</sup> is Flag Day.

**Memorial Day:** Discussions began about the ceremony at EHS. The committee once again discussed if there was any way to change the length of service, and also revisited whether we continue to have 2 parades. Past programs were compared to the most recent. The committee also discussed special speaker options, who might be available, and be willing to speak at the EHS ceremony.

The attendance for the Memorial Day ceremonies and parades varies depending on the weather. The past two years have been affected by rain. Pete hoped he wouldn't have to make a last minute decision about cancellation again.

Ted mentioned talking to Veterans at Ann Turner's Veteran Coffeehouse meeting held at the library every other week. He may be able to assess interest in Veterans interested in speaking at the EHS ceremony or participating in the parades. The next meeting is Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 – 12:00 noon. It is held in the McKnight Community Room.

Regarding Ellington Veterans names that were included at the WAA ceremony and to be included in the Memorial Day ceremony, Joe will have an updated list prepared. Joe regrets that he missed two names for the WAA ceremony last month, Ernest Lanz and Leslie Eitelman. Pete would like to make it tradition to have the up-to-date names for the WAA ceremony.

Ted mentioned that Bundy's would offer a car for vets who can't march in the parades.

Dennis asked what we are doing for flags in the parade. Bruce said sometimes there are two flags, depends who shows up. It was questioned whether we have the people to march, but the American Legion and the VFW march together and we usually have the support needed.

Dennis mentioned the sound check before the start of the Memorial Day ceremony at EHS. Last year one of the mics was not plugged in.

**Membership update:** The letters were sent out to membership by the town. Members that reported they were stepping down to the committee vs. non-response and student representative requirements – Al Lewandosky stepped down from the committee officially at our November meeting. We thank him for his service on the committee for so many years. Andrew McCoy has not been seen in a few years, Daniel Joy has not been in attendance since he went away to college a couple years ago; Miranda Graziani graduated high school this past year and is no longer eligible and has stepped down as a student representative. So currently, our active members should read as follows: Peter Hany Jr. (chair), Bruce Warkentin (vice-chair), Rhonda Villanova (secretary), Joseph Boucher, Wilson D. Flynn, Ted C. Graziani, Cheryl Samborski, John Takach, Dennis Varney, and student representative, Steven Villanova. As our membership is supposed to be 12 members and 2 student reps, we will be looking for additional members that can be active on the committee.

A motion was made to adjourn: Joe 1<sup>st</sup>, Bruce 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** February 27, 2018 - 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Submitted by:

Rhonda  
Villanova

Digitally signed by Rhonda Villanova  
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Date: 2018.01.28 15:04:03 -0500