



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Patriotic Committee

Chairman
Peter Hany, Jr.

Vice Chairman
Bruce Warkentin

Secretary
Rhonda Villanova

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ELLINGTON
TOWN CLERK

Members
Joe Boucher
Wilson D. Flynn
Ted C. Graziani
Cheryl Samborski
John Takach
Dennis Varney

Student Representatives
Steven Villanova

February 27, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

In attendance were: John Takach, Bruce Warkentin, Joe Boucher, Dennis Varney, Rhonda Villanova, Pete Hany, Jr., Steven Villanova, and Ted Graziani; guest: Doug Stratoudakis

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion to Approve last Meeting Minutes Joe 1st, Ted 2nd; motion approved.

Boy Scouts/New Scoutmaster: John introduced Doug Stratoudakis, the new Scoutmaster. We discussed the flag situation and clarified what was needed and the Scouts are rededicating themselves to putting the flags out, taking them in, assisting with WAA and the wreath pick-up in January.

Joe discussed the double taps/medallions and foot stones at the cemetery; also, the geranium plantings for Memorial Day. The flags should be placed the Thursday before Memorial Day weekend. Doug suggested the Scouts could place the flags the Monday before because they have their meeting at 6:00 on May 21st and there will be more Scouts present to help.

Al Lewandosky said he would order the flags in February. The flag pick up is usually before Veteran's Day. Although the flags still being there this past December was helpful in finding the foot stones when snow was covering them for WAA. It was asked of Doug if the Scouts could go before Veteran's Day to make sure the flags were still up. It was suggested to keep the flags up until after WAA and participate in the WAA pick-up around January 10th to clean up the wreaths. Dennis suggested checking with the Public Works Department about a dumpster to clear the wreaths. Pete will follow up for a dumpster on site for clean up.

Joe said there are over 400 flags that need to be taken apart and retired. Doug said the Scouts can help take them apart and take the poles for kindling for their camping trips. Joe said he would take care of the Crystal Lake Cemetery and McKinstry Cemetery. He is still trying to find a small cemetery off of Newell Hill that is on the town map.

For Memorial Day, the Scouts assist with the line of march for the parades. Dave Milnes usually

coordinates with the Scouts. At the EHS Memorial Day ceremony, the Scouts assist with the Color Guard, handing out programs and carrying the Lady Auxiliary flags.

Memorial Day programs take place at Ellington Middle School the Thursday before Memorial Day weekend and Ellington High School and Crystal Lake School the Friday before. We did not have confirmation on when Center School and Windermere have their programs. There was a brief discussion on the types of programs held at the schools.

Memorial Day: John had questions regarding the flyover during the Memorial Day parade – who is the contact, which airbase location they would be coming from, and the fact that the flyover needs to be scheduled ASAP because the schedule fills up fast for Memorial Day.

Other discussions revolved around whether the parade would finish before the laying of the wreath and roll call at the green – do we still do a roll call at the green? We have had no parade at the center of town for the past two years due to rain. According to last year's notes (per Pete), Mr. Delassus had said the band would not fit on the green. We will need to figure out the logistics for the band and what parts of the ceremony will be held at the green, if any. Also, the question came up yet again of capping the numbers of participants. Last year, any additional groups or businesses that wanted to be involved were told they would specifically need to focus on the Veteran aspect of the parade, not advertising their business. Any decorations would need to be patriotic in theme.

The contact list we currently have is outdated. The committee updated what was readily available and Rhonda will call Louann at Town Hall to determine if she has a more up-to-date list. We will need to sync up with the town's list to contact participants about this year's Memorial Day events.

Bruce mentioned Doris Johnson's recommended music for the Color Guard. Mr. Delassus confirmed they would be playing "Trio for the National Emblem March" as suggested in this year's ceremony. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DszfywRSo_E)

There was a question about whether we wanted the Vocal Ensemble to sing the National Anthem at the EHS ceremony. It was brought up too late last year to make a request. The band usually plays the instrumental National Anthem at the ceremony. Steven offered to ask Mr. Diamond if there is an interest for the Vocal Ensemble to participate. We're not sure if they would sing with the band, it would probably be one or the other. The committee would like more of the community to be involved and there is an effort at the high school to present opportunities for the students to be involved.

POW/MIA memorial: per correspondence from Wilson, it was confirmed the Public Works Department would, along with the garden club, take over the maintenance of the POW/MIA memorial.

AHPC Budget: Pete reported that the committee's budget is \$4700. The committee discussed how the budget is currently used, which included: flags/programs/EHS auditorium use and janitors, garden (POW/MIA?) and signs (including Memorial Day and WAA).

Discussion of signs reminded the committee that someone (Joe?) would need to attend the Board of Selectman meeting prior to WAA advertising commences to get permission to put up the largest signs for the event in December.

Veteran's Coffeehouse at the Library: Ted invited Pete to attend the upcoming coffeehouse on March 15th at 10:30. *(from prev. meeting minutes: "...to assess interest in Veterans interested in speaking at the EHS ceremony or participating in the parades. The next meeting is Thursday, February 15th, 10:00 – 12:00 noon. It is held in the McKnight Community Room.)*

Other Business: Ted asked whether anyone knew why the question regarding the AHPC becoming a permanent committee in the last election didn't pass. There were mixed responses, but it seemed the consensus was most people that voted did not realize what the AHPC does.

Joe mentioned the fact that we have an AHPC website and gmail account, but wondered who was monitoring. The website hasn't been updated for some time. It was determined that Wiley Dumas had set them up, but had not passed on the account information and password. Rhonda will discuss with Louann whether she had received any information in order to update it or if we could just have a page within the town's website as many committees already do. The town website already posts information about our events and the page would list membership and any other information we would like to share with the public.

A motion was made to adjourn: John 1st, Ted 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

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

Submitted by:

Rhonda
Villanova

Digitally signed by Rhonda Villanova
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Date: 2018.03.07 17:46:48 -0500