



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Patriotic Committee

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187



J. Wiley Dumas
Chairman

Bruce Warkentin
Vice Chairman

Members
Wilson D. Flynn
Alan Lewandosky
Andrew McCoy
Peter Hany, Jr.
Daniel Joy
Cheryl Samborski
John Takach
Rhonda Villanova
Ted C. Graziani
Joe Boucher

Student Representative
Miranda Graziani
Nicholas Pina

February 28, 2017

Meeting called to order at 7:12 p.m.

In attendance were: Wilson Flynn, Bruce Warkentin, Cheryl Samborski, Rhonda Villanova, Joe Boucher, and Ted Graziani; excused absences of John Takach, Miranda Graziani and Pete Hany, Jr.

The **Election of Officers** did not take place due to lack of a quorum. There was discussion regarding members that have not been seen for most of the meetings. There has been no verification from the missing members to the town whether they are willing to participate or drop out of the committee. Wilson will be sending a note in hopes of confirming their discontinued membership so new active members can be sought.

Memorial Day planning begins: Bruce had a correspondence from Len Johnson's wife, Doris. She had comments on the Memorial Day ceremony, hoping to make it more meaningful. Her suggestions included: marching music as the color guard came down the aisle, keep the program close to one hour, cancellation of parades on TV- not program at EHS (meaning any cancellation should be specific as to just the parades and NOT the ceremony at EHS – many people thought the ceremony was cancelled as well last year), people should be at the doors handing out programs – not left in a box (usually the Boy Scouts do hand out programs, not sure what happened last year), it would be nice if the Poppy Queens were announced during the ceremony (the names were in the program last year, but they were not announced by the speaker). There was discussion regarding each suggestion. Factors to keeping the program length were determined.

Ted talked about the “meaning of Memorial Day” and that it was important to bring kids in, make sure to include them because otherwise, they believe it's just another day.

The importance of the flags on Memorial Day was brought up due to complaints of missing flags last year, in particular a POW flag. We need to ensure all flags are placed prior to the ceremony. There had been an issue with the flags at the library falling down. There needs to be some kind of stand in the ground for the flags to be inserted.

Cheryl had a copy of the Tolland Memorial Day guidelines as a sample for us to follow when distributing information to participants in the parades (e.g., keeping to the theme, no business solicitation during the parade). We discussed a limit on entries and/or focus on “Patriotic Theme” – guidelines for presentation in the parade (red, white, and blue) and needing a cut-off date for sign-ups for participants. Wilson will compare, contrast, and compile the guidelines for review.

Joe asked about the schedule for Boy Scouts to place flags. He volunteered to assist with the activity. He will contact John Takach (Boy Scout liaison).

Ted has someone in mind as a special speaker for the high school ceremony, a Brigadier General. He will contact him to see if he is interested and/or available.

WAA fundraising: Wilson mentioned our base of support, an anonymous donor, as far as WAA goes, but we still need to raise funds. Pete is working on a fundraiser at a brewery to help in this regard.

PSA from Ted: March 30th, there will be a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans program at the Capitol. It’s an hour long and open to the public. There will be more information.

A motion was made to adjourn: Cheryl 1st, Rhonda 2nd

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 28th, 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Rhonda Villanova

Digitally signed by Rhonda Villanova
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