



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Patriotic Committee

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



Members

Joe Boucher
Ted C. Graziani
Dennis Kayhart
Robert King
Cheryl Samborski
Christian Sauer
John Takach
Dennis Varney

Chairman

Bruce Warkentin.

Secretary

Rhonda Villanova

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ELLINGTON
TOWN CLERK

Student Representative

Steven Villanova

June 26, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

In attendance were: John Takach, Bruce Warkentin, Joe Boucher, Cheryl Samborski, Rhonda Villanova, Steven Villanova; **new members:** Dennis Kayhart and Christian Sauer

Pledge of Allegiance

Memorial Day Debriefing:

John T: Line of March – Boy Scouts should be able to help, maybe even helping before the audience leaves the auditorium. We should invite the Fire Chief/Fire Dept Rep to a meeting to determine line of march. Frank from the Depot (gas station) organized guns/flags at front of parade.

Cheryl had an idea to send the line of march information out to the participants prior to Memorial Day, or use the task document to post on the town website. This would assist on the day of the parade if participants had an idea of where they were in the line, saving time.

Dennis/Christian are from the American Legion. Christian mentioned working with the guns used at the ceremony so they wouldn't jam.

John T: the Army offered a color and firing squad, should we take them up on it next year? The group that came out for Wreaths Across America was very good.

Note: Dennis Varney said the trucks were moved closer to the front to avoid kid's running in front of trucks for candy.

Bruce: The Bagpipers had called to say they didn't have enough people to come.

We need to invite Dave Milnes to a meeting to find out what he takes care of at the Crystal Lake parade/ceremony in case he can't make it again or needs to stop altogether.

Rhonda/Cheryl: due to the misunderstanding with students "chosen" to read Logan's Order and the Gettysburg Address, Rhonda discussed the method currently used by Ms. Ouellet and Mr. Byrne in their selection from the AP Gov and AP US History classes. As they also choose students for Boys/Girls State, the desire is to have students that are interested in volunteering/attending sign up and then the teachers choose from that smaller group. There are too many students being chosen who have no real interest in the activity, no understanding of what the ceremony for Memorial Day is really about and have no inclination, as far as the Boys/Girls State is concerned, to continue their education in that direction. The involvement shouldn't be open to only the top students, who may be involved with so much already, solely to add to their college applications. There are students with Veterans in their

families who have a connection to the ceremony, a passion for speaking in support of Veterans and want to be allowed a chance to do so but are bypassed by the selection process.

Joe suggested if we have both Student Rep positions filled on the committee, to have those two students read Logan's Order and Gettysburg Address. If we only have one Student Rep, we send a letter requesting one student from the AP classes. Ms. Ouellet's initial emailed response regarding the process indicated if we only needed one student, just let them know and they'll respond accordingly.

Add to our February/March To Do list: review the letter requesting student involvement – not sure if it originates with LouAnn/Julia at Town Hall, or Ms. Dziadul at EHS. Also, we need to review the Building Use form to insure it is filled out correctly, requesting the podium, chairs and sound equipment (i.e., mics) for the Memorial Day ceremony. Kim Porter (EHS) had Rhonda send an email for this year's ceremony to her to notify the custodians regarding set-up, but Joe said the tasks were not completed and he ended up looking for cords/equipment before the ceremony. The Building Use form is now submitted online from the Town Hall. There is supposed to be space to request whatever we need on that form.

Regarding the sound system on the green – it wasn't there. At our last meeting, DPW/Tim was supposed to take care of it. Would it be possible to use money from our budget to buy our own portable speaker/sound/mic equipment that we would bring to each location? Bruce said he would consult with the town regarding our budget and define what our budget currently covers.

Joe/John T: How do we get reporters to cover our parades/events? We should add a task to the list for someone to contact the media before WAA and Memorial Day.

Joe said the ceremony at EHS ran about 50 minutes long, which seemed just about right and allowed the parade participants time to line up and the parade to start on time.

It was noted by several people the addition of Amazing Grace playing during the POW/MIA table set-up was a very nice touch and well received.

Bruce asked whether the Crystal Lake Association assisted with the parade. We knew that Dave Milnes normally helps out, but the committee was not sure if anyone else from the CLA assisted.

A question was asked about the wreaths at the Crystal Lake Cemetery and the green; also, do we have a contact for the Crystal Lake Cemetery? Cheryl said the Women's Auxiliary usually takes care of the wreath on the green. The committee will need to touch base with the CLA to confirm their preparation actions for Memorial Day events so we are clear who/which group is doing what.

Joe mentioned the business vehicles in the parade that seemed to be strictly advertising their business. Did they just join in with the parade? We had mentioned in past meetings that any businesses participating in the parade needed to make an attempt to support the theme (i.e., Memorial Day/Veterans/Patriotism). We need to review the letters that are sent out to groups/businesses to insure that message is conveyed.

New Business: Dennis Varney reminded Joe that the committee needs to write the Board of Selectman for permission to place (4) Wreaths Across America signs (2 back to back at center of town; 1 in cemetery and/or at entrance) as they are over-sized. Someone may need to attend one of their meetings as well.

Bruce mentioned the flowers that Len Johnson used to take care of; the committee needs to ask if the Beautification Committee can take over the care and maintenance of those areas.

Flag Day: John T. mentioned that a real script is needed for the service. Someone needs to be assigned to collect the flags from the (3) locations: Big Y, Hall Memorial Library and Town Hall. The committee needs contact names at each place. Some flags were already picked up and John wasn't sure by whom. Also, Chris Davis was not present at Flag Day, he is usually there.

Dennis K and Christian are both members of the American Legion. They meet the 1st Thursday of the month (except July) at the Senior Center.

Dennis K. asked about the POW/MIA monument at the library. He was wondering what was needed for maintenance (e.g. cleaning of stone, etc...) He works on the Hockanum Trail, he could also stop to weed-whack around the monument and make sure it is taken care of since Wilson Flynn has been ill and taking care of family members.

Motion to adjourn: Joe 1st, Dennis K. 2nd

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Next Meeting scheduled: August 28, 2018 - 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Submitted by:

Rhonda
Villanova

Digitally signed by Rhonda Villanova
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