



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

RECEIVED  
18 SEP 10 PM 5:14  
ELLINGTON  
TOWN CLERK

**Chairman**  
Bruce Warkentin.

**Secretary**  
Rhonda Villanova

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

**Student Representative**  
Steven Villanova



August 28, 2018

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

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

**Acceptance of last month's meeting minutes:** Rhonda read most of the minutes to refresh everyone's memory since we had a month off. Joe had a question regarding the mention of Dennis Varney's comments because Dennis V. wasn't at the last meeting. Rhonda understood what he had said and included it as a comment made by Joe about Dennis' comments. Motion to accept the meeting minutes: Joe 1<sup>st</sup>, Cheryl 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **Unfinished business – Wreaths Across America:**

Committee revisited budget – confirmed by Bruce to be \$4200/yr. The topic of buying a portable speaker system was discussed and whether we should vote for it. John T will do a little more research and bring information to next meeting so we know what we would be voting on. Currently, our budget is spent on programs, flowers, and signs. There was a question regarding the Civil War monument on the green and its maintenance and who was the contact. Rob Binkowski was named as the contact.

WAA sign issue – Bruce spoke to Lori Spielman and LouAnn Cannella. He was directed to speak with Planning & Zoning's John Colonese about resizing the signs. Bruce mentioned writing a letter to John Colonese and Lisa Houlihan (Town Planner). The town used to allow larger signs and now they are cracking down. The WAA signs are 4' x 8'. The requirements are 12 sq. ft allowed without a permit. Upon reading the requirements provided, the committee discussed the following: signs needs to be 15 ft set back from "edge of pavement of the closest street", need a permit or not, size vs. # of days allowed to stand, contact Town Planner to determine course of action, placement of (2) signs across from Big Y entrance and possibly in the cemetery (as last year), ask permission of Congregational Church to put sign on green/near gazebo, do we want the signs up past the deadline to order wreaths to inform Winter Fest attendees to see the invitation to join us at the WAA ceremony, are we limited to only # of days as far as larger signs posted. The timeline for the December 15<sup>th</sup> WAA ceremony would be to get the signs out by October 16<sup>th</sup> and they would be allowed to stand 60 days.

Joe mentioned we need the stick-on dates to place on the signs that update them from year to year instead of replacing the whole sign.

Due to the updating of the WAA website, Bruce will contact WAA to re-establish the Ellington account.

**AHPC membership update:** The Board of Selectmen sent correspondence to the committee to inform us that Daniel Joy and Andrew McCoy are officially removed from the committee due to non-attendance. Dennis Varney officially stepped down from the committee in July due to his position on the Housing Authority committee. We are also still down one student representative. This brings our number of openings to (3) adults and (1) student.

**New Business:** Dennis K. is looking after the MIA monument on the library grounds. He noticed the bench needs to be painted. It was discussed whether to go ahead and take care of it or first see if the library “has a guy” that does it.

John T. noticed the library has a box for old flags from the Somers American Legion. We had a box at Big Y, but someone else took it. We should have a marked box with the committee name on it to better track it in the future. He will be investigating further into this matter. As John is coordinating with the Boy Scouts to be responsible for the flag placement and clean up for the ceremonies (Veteran’s Day/WAA/flag retirement), we need to know where flags need to be picked up from and when. Joe asked if the Boy Scouts would be willing and/or able to assist with the wreath retirement. A dumpster is needed and the volume of debris the cemetery caretaker is currently dealing with is overwhelming. The regularly scheduled spring cleanup by the cemetery doesn’t take place until around Easter so the question is would the Boy Scouts be able to do it earlier so the wreaths don’t degrade further from the weather factor.

Joe has been keeping track of veteran burials. There was an additional 12 this past year. John and Joe discussed mapping the veteran’s graves, where the Honor list veterans are (Arlington vs. Ellington) and ways to make it easier to find them for wreath placement.

Motion to adjourn: John 1<sup>st</sup>, Dennis 2<sup>nd</sup>

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

**Next Meeting scheduled:** September 25, 2018 - 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Submitted by:

Rhonda  
Villanova

Digitally signed by Rhonda Villanova  
DN: cn=Rhonda Villanova, o=Ad Hoc  
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email=rjvillanova@comcast.net, c=US  
Date: 2018.09.10 15:31:40 -0400