



Chairman
John Takach

Vice-Chairman
John Chandler

Secretary
Rhonda Villanova

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Patriotic Committee

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



RECEIVED
19 JUL -9 PM 12:50
ELLINGTON
TOWN CLERK

Members
Joe Boucher
Ted C. Graziani
Dennis Kayhart
Robert King
Sara Landon
Cheryl Samborski
Christian Sauer
Bruce Warkentin

Student Representative
Anthony Chamberlin
Steven Villanova

June 25, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.

In attendance: Joe Boucher, Bruce Warkentin, John Chandler, Rhonda Villanova, Steven Villanova, Christian Sauer, Dennis Kayhart, and Sara Landon

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of last meeting minutes: Joe B. 1st, Chris 2nd

Memorial Day Debriefing:

John C. said he had discussed with John Takach regarding feedback from the day's events, largely that the parade went well. The timeline for the EHS ceremony is tough, it went 15 minutes long. There were questions regarding the rifle/salute - why was it not done? Should it be brought back next year? Can this task be outsourced to the National Guard? Rhonda suggested a drum rim-shot could take the place of the sound so it is a clear cut sound but not as jarring as the rifles were.

John C. talked about the timing of the arrival of the National Guard. They didn't need to be there until 11:00 a.m., but in order to get paid for their participation, they needed to be there for 4 hours. They arrived at 8:00 a.m. and left shortly after reaching the town green from the parade.

Joe B. had a list of items/issues to address for the day's events:

- Recommendation to switch the chairman's welcome with the "please stand for the colors" so everyone is in the auditorium before the welcome/introduction is made.

- MIA table accessories should remain in the box on the chair so the presenters can place the items as the speech is made. The bible was missing from the box. Sara said the bible should also have a certain verse marked/be opened to the page.

- Comments were made regarding the band music, people would like more marches... Doris Johnson had requested a specific song for the presentation of colors. The band played it last year, but did not this year. The committee will be reviewing music for next year's ceremony. There was supposed to be a

sound person present from OKP to start music cues, but that person was on stage in the band and there was no one else to assist.

- All town flags were supposed to be at 1/2 staff, the school's flag was not. Is this under Public Works purview or school custodians? Should the committee raise the flag at the center cemetery at the end of the program, which is usually after noon. Regulations state to have flags at 1/2 staff until noon (per Presidential Proclamation).

- Joe asked if anyone knew who maintains the Tingley Memorial? No one on the committee knew.

- Can we request the flight path of the fly-over to follow the path of the parade to the center green?

- Joe plans to pick up the memorial crosses after July 4th from the town center. He is also getting calls regarding flags missing from veterans' graves. This will need to be reviewed next spring with the Boy Scouts group.

- Joe visited Charter Cemetery on Ludwig Road, there were at least (1) veteran marker, (1) Civil War medallion; the stones were very old, white crosses rotting away - seems to be maintained by town because it was mowed. The consensus was it would make a good Boy Scout project.

Rhonda had extra programs for anyone interested in seeing one or having one for reference before she shredded the rest. She also stated as she was ordering the programs at Staples, trying to keep cost down, she declined the folding option. Someone at Staples, who wants to remain anonymous, after seeing what the programs were for, offered to cover the cost of the folding.

Flag Day: the flag retirement ceremony went well, the Boy Scouts did well. There was a post on Facebook that it was a "Flag Burning" ceremony, should have been "Flag Retirement" ceremony.

Other Business:

Bruce stated that he had contacted Rob Binkowski again about the (2) monuments' maintenance. Rob said he would get to it before July 1st.

Joe B. questioned why Rob King was still on the committee if he hasn't been able to attend any meetings in two years? Is the notice from the town worded well enough for people to know they have to respond if they can't continue on the committee or should it be changed to respond if you are still interested in being on the committee?

Budget Review: John T. questioned 2nd item on Amazon.com listed in budget for \$184.99. Also, the committee would be interested in seeing an itemized list for the Z Flag Store for \$1497.00. It isn't readily known what is being ordered in the committee's name, this is a yearly expense, and we need as reference for future flag purchases just in case.

Chris made a motion to donate the remaining \$975.26 of the committee's budget to go to the Ellington Veterans Office for the Project Fund's statue. Dennis 1st, Joe 2nd. John C. will call the Finance Office to

see what needs to be done to facilitate this donation and make sure it is credited to the current budget year.

WAA: Joe B. reminded the committee we've lost our sign location across from Big Y due to new construction. There are new regulations on signs in town which is why the committee ordered new signs last year, but they cannot be read as easily. Stickers will be ordered to place over the dates as has been done in the past. Although the committee may need to order new signs again. The limit is 12 square feet. Rhonda asked whether they can be placed to be seen as one is leaving Big Y - stopped at the light it might be more easily read. Chris suggested an option might be on the strip between Church Street and Chuck Wagon. The committee will discuss again as the construction takes shape.

Motion to adjourn: Chris 1st, Dennis 2nd
Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Next meeting: August 27th, 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall meeting room unless notified otherwise.

Submitted by:
Rhonda Villanova

Rhonda
Villanova

Digitally signed by Rhonda Villanova
DN: cn=Rhonda Villanova, ou=Ad Hoc
Pastorate Committee, o=Secretary,
email=Rhonda.Villanova@comcast.net, c=US
Date: 2018.07.09 11:59:18 -0400