

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

July 27, 2023
Meeting minutes

Attending: Bob Ferrara, Anne Forbes, Bill Klauer, Pamela Lynn

The meeting was called to order by chair Pamela Lynn at 1:00 p.m. in the Acton Memorial Library conference room.

Minutes of the July 6 meeting were reviewed, and unanimously approved as revised. Also distributed and reviewed by the committee was Pam's **July update to the Memorial Library trustees**.

Review of subcommittee responsibilities

In preparation for the next meeting of the full committee, our understanding of the subcommittee's responsibilities was discussed. So far, we are planning for the *Action Unlimited* articles and setting up the schedule of speakers and public presentations. Much continuing work is anticipated for both of these, and questions were raised about other possible responsibilities, as well as whether support for them might be available from other town entities. For instance, what is our responsibility for **tours**, which are a logical activity for the 250th? It was suggested that this might be an area where the Recreation Department might help. Similarly, it would help to be able to call on assistance from the library staff.

Posting of scheduled activities was also discussed. Can we use the library as a posting site? What about the town website? And a dedicated Acton 250th website? Seeking out volunteers with expertise from, for instance, the Council on Aging, might be helpful.

Upcoming meeting schedule and planning, etc.

July 31-Acton 250th committee
August 9-History subcommittee, 10:00
August 28-Acton 250th committee
August 31-History subcommittee, 10:00

Bob announced the following planning updates:

August 7-Pam & Bob to meet with Bob Allison about his upcoming talk.
??? -Bob will talk to Mary Fuhrer about a possible 2024 presentation on
Crown Resistance Day
10/12/23-Amy Cole has proposed giving a tour of Acton center sites

Pam announced that she will be away from August 19 through 27. She then distributed copies of chapter 5 from Ned Blackhawk's *Rediscovery of America*, which will be discussed at the 8/9 meeting.

Action Unlimited articles

Pam has drafted the **introductory article** that has been discussed, titled "Acton's count down to Patriots' Day April 19, 2025", of which the committee did a group review in preparation for presenting it to the next meeting of the full Acton 250 Committee. The article refers back to the committee's initial charter, including the goal of presenting a view of the local history of the time that will be more inclusive than past accounts. Pam suggested that we ask to have this first article published twice.

Sue Peterman, who did the initial communication with the editor of AU, is still willing to oversee the article submissions, but since she is no longer on the subcommittee, it was decided that Anne will send the articles to the paper. She will draft an email with our general plan and requests for future submittals, to be reviewed by the subcommittee before sending. Our requests for publication will include using the new logo as an illustration for this first article, and asking if it can be used as a small “initial” to begin the text for the future ones.

Bob has drawn up the final **instructions** to the writers, outlining how the articles are to be written, their length, and how to submit them to the history committee for review.

There is no further information about the article that appeared recently inviting applicants to the 250th committee. It does not appear that any committee member wrote it, and it isn't a repeat of any article from last year.

Update on related 250th events

Pam reported on a recent Council on Aging talk by Gary Entwistle, a Minuteman reenactor and author of the historical novel *April's Breeze*, and suggested that the committee invite him to give a future presentation.

Monetary contributions to the 250th committee's activities

In a follow-up to the discussion at the last meeting, Pam reported that the town Gift Fund will be able to receive donations toward the Acton 250th activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. Next meeting: August 9.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes