

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

September 27, 2023

Meeting minutes

Attending: Bob Ferrara, Anne Forbes, Pamela Lynn Absent: Mary-Price Maddox

The meeting was called to order by chair Pamela Lynn at 10:05 a.m. in the Acton Memorial Library conference room.

Minutes of the September 13 meeting were reviewed, and unanimously approved with one revision.

Upcoming Acton 250 meeting and event schedule:

September 27, 7 p.m.: Acton 250th Committee meeting
October 12: Amy Cole—walking tour of Acton center
October 20, 10 a.m.: Acton 250th History Subcommittee meeting
October 30, 7 p.m.: Acton 250th Committee meeting
November 13: Mary Fuhrer--lecture on life in Acton 1773-75

Recap of first committee event

130+ people attended **Bob Allison's talk** on Sept. 21, including 50 students who were organized by their teachers including Mary-Price. All agreed that the talk was excellent, and complimented Bob F. on his introduction and Pam on her announcement and sponsorship of the program in memory of Pat Herdeg. There were some minor problems with the Room 204 sound system which we hope will be overcome by the next event. Steve Trimble is developing a contact email list based on the sign-in sheets of attendees.

Next Acton 250 events

October 12: tour of Acton center by Amy Cole, 2 p.m.

This tour will be by invitation to the committee, library staff, and others we may identify who may have a special interest in and/or knowledge of the topic.

Amy's fee will be \$200; Bob will prepare an invoice for the Town's payment. Pam pointed out that since discussion by the committee may take place at the event, she will post it as a 250th Committee meeting.

Future event planning

This winter the committee will discuss ideas for other tours—possibly one in south Acton, for instance. One open question is whether registration will be required.

Pam reported that Mary-Price has suggested that we hold a treasure hunt of perhaps ten objects or features in the landscape, which may appeal to students, etc. The committee will follow up on this.

Related recent events by other organizations

- September 17: opening program of Acton Historical Society's exhibit on the history of Acton's schools: over a hundred students walked down from the high school to attend this event!

- September 17: Benjamin Carp's lecture on the Boston Tea Party (for *Emerging Revolutionary War*): now available online at <https://emergingrevolutionarywar.org>.
- CSpan's presentation on Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* – may be repeated in the future.
- All of Richard Bell's five ongoing lectures for *Forever Scholars* on "The Real Revolution" will be available online, but only for those who signed up for the series.
- September 19: Acton Library Book Club talk by Bill McKibben was well attended
- September 19: meeting of the Concord 250th History Committee: Pam attended, and will continue to go to the meetings. They are organizing sequential programs from the Boston Tea Party onward. Minuteman Park personnel are involved (Jared Fuoss?) when their schedule allows. The committee hopes that Presidents Obama and/or Biden may be able to come to town as 4/19/2025 gets closer. Bob reported that someone involved with *Antiques Magazine* is interested in participating in the Concord programs.

Upcoming related programs

- The Concord Museum's exhibit of 18th- 19th century samplers opens this week.
- October 5: Doug Halley opens a series for the Friends of Pine Hawk with a talk on some archaeological sites in Acton. The committee will examine the schedule of upcoming Pine Hawk events to see what we might post as relevant to the 250th—e.g. one to be given next year by Cedric Woods.
- November 2: Concord Museum talk "Black Girls and their Needlework."
- November 8: " " " on Phyllis Wheatley(?)
- November 21: Stacy Schiff's book on Samuel Adams, *The Revolutionary* (to be the AML book group topic) will also be discussed on Nov. 28 by the League of Women Voters.

In a related discussion, it was agreed to promote relevant programs of other organizations at our events, displaying their promotional material, membership forms, etc.

Action Unlimited articles

Pam has written the next article, on the lead-up to the Boston Tea Party, to be submitted by Oct. 3 for publication on October 6. After discussing Larry Kerpelman's 2017 *American History* magazine article "Race to Remember" (on the propaganda race between the colonists and the British government in the aftermath of April 19, 1755) with him on Sept. 21, he has sent us a condensed version. We will add that to the publication schedule.

In other updates, Bill and Anne's article on Acton as a town in 1775 has been postponed, while Mary Fuhrer's projected article on daily life in Acton is now planned to precede her November 13 talk, if possible. Bob will communicate with Mary on that.

In regard to the above and to future articles, especially by non-committee members, the question was again raised as to whether the authors of the *Action* articles should be shown. It was agreed that it could be at our discretion to decide this.

Bob has turned over the maintenance of the Excel schedule of articles to Anne, and he will set up a Google sheet on them.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m. Next meeting: October 20.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Forbes