

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

September 13, 2023

Meeting minutes

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

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

Minutes of the August 31 and September 7 meetings were reviewed, and unanimously approved as revised.

Upcoming Acton 250 meeting and event schedule:

September 19: Bill McKibben lecture (library talk)
September 21: Bob Allison lecture
September 27, 10 a.m.: History Subcommittee meeting
September 27, 7 p.m.: Acton 250th Committee meeting
October 12: Amy Cole—walking tour of Acton center

Upcoming related program announcements, etc.

In addition to the planned Acton 250 activities, the following relevant talks and events were announced:

- September 17: opening program of Acton Historical Society's exhibit on the history of Acton's schools.
- September 17: Benjamin Carp's lecture on the Boston Tea Party, for *Emerging Revolutionary War*
- Now online (for a while): Richard Bell's introductory lecture for *Forever Scholars* on "The Real Revolution"
- September 19: Acton Library Book Club talk by Bill McKibben
- September 19: meeting of the Concord 250th History Committee

Review of progress to date of the Acton 250 Committee

Anne attended the Sept. 1 meeting of the Merchandising and Publicity Committee, which on Sept. 6 reported on their plans to the full 250th Committee. That committee will reorganize into two separate groups for merchandising and publicity. Mike Gowing will chair the Publicity Committee, and Sue Peterman will take charge of the publicity itself. Events announcements will be sent to various online websites in addition to *Action Unlimited*, and a town 250th Facebook page is being set up, along with the website. That, as well as Twitter, will be used just for committee announcements.

Also at the main committee meeting on the 6th, Pam gave a summary of our subcommittee's progress to date. She asked that the members think about how to weave other organizations' activities into the Acton 250 publicity.

Preparation for Sept. 21 talk by Bob Allison

Sue Peterman has forwarded the press release on this talk to *Action Unlimited* and to several other outlets, including the Acton town website. The release has been printed up as a flyer, and copies were given out at the 9/6 meeting, to be posted around town by 250th Committee members.

Bob F. will work with Mike Gowing on the set-up of Room 204, the technicalities of the Power Point, Acton TV, etc. ZOOM questions will be handled by IT, with the same link given for each future presentation. There will be sign-in sheets, and Mike will set up a guest log. Advance registrations will be necessary for the smaller venues, but Room 204 should not require them.

For the “run of the show” on the 21st, welcomers from the subcommittee will be needed at the door, and to give out hand-outs if there are any. Bob will introduce the speaker, give a background on 250th activities, etc. Pam will announce the dedication of the event in memory of Pat Herdeg, and monitor the question and answer period at the end. Bob will obtain an invoice from Dr. Allison, to pass on to Dean Charter for payment. The Town will pay for mileage, if relevant.

Other upcoming events

Following on our Sept. 7 committee discussion with Mary Fuhrer, who has agreed to both give a presentation and write at least one historical article, Bob will follow up to pin down the date for her talk and reserve Room 204. Possible booking dates: Nov. 9 or Nov. 15. The likely topic of her talk is “Life in Acton on the eve of the Revolution.”

Amy Cole’s walking tour of Acton Center has been confirmed for October 12. Bob will work out the parameters with her and prepare for the publicity, which he will set up with Mike Gowing for the Publicity Committee. *Action* publicity needs to be sent in by Tuesday Oct. 3 for publication on Oct. 6. We also need to know how participants will register for the tour, as the number will be limited.

The tour will start at the front of the Memorial Library; Bill asked if we might make use of the library’s Arthur Davis painting of the Brooks Tavern in some way.

Bob is still pursuing other possible candidates including Cedric Woods at UMass Boston.

Action Unlimited articles

The potential schedule of articles is continually being revised. The main committee expects them to appear bimonthly. Bill and Anne are working on the next anticipated article about Acton in 1773. Current target dates for the next article and announcement submittals are:

- Sept. 19: Acton in 1773: article
- Oct. 3: Amy Cole’s walking tour: announcement
- Nov. 11: Samuel Adams—library book group discussion: announcement

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. Next meeting: September 27.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes