

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

November 30, 2023
Meeting minutes

Attending: Bob Ferrara (11:00), Anne Forbes, Bill Klauer, Pamela Lynn Absent: Mary Price Maddox

The meeting was called to order by chair Pamela Lynn at 10:35 in the Acton Memorial Library second-floor conference room.

Approval of past minutes.

Minutes of the November 10 meeting were reviewed, and unanimously approved as revised.

Confirmed schedule

Upcoming Acton 250th meetings and events:

December 10, 2 p.m.: Amy Cole—tour of Acton center
December 15, 10 a.m.: Acton 250th History Subcommittee meeting
January 12, 10 a.m.: “ “ “ “
January 26, 10 a.m.: “ “ “ “
January 30: Joseph Adelman: talk on 18th-century newspapers

Upcoming related events:

December 9: AML hosts Rick Hamelin, potter, on “Patriots and Potters”
December 16: “The Boston Tea Party: Steeped in Secrecy”—virtual program from Tewksbury.
+ many area events related to the Tea Party in Boston and elsewhere

Updates and reports; review of Acton 250th Committee progress looking forward

The **History Subcommittee Goals and Responsibilities** as published in the 4/24/23 Acton 250th Committee Report were briefly reviewed with attention to the strategies previously identified. It was agreed to revisit the list with the full committee, and to ask for volunteers to write articles, etc. The subcommittee will look at the suggested list in detail at the next meeting.

Events

Past events. All agreed that Mary Fuhrer's 11/13 talk on Life in Acton 1773-1775 was a great success, with another large, enthusiastic audience in attendance. The Room 204 technology was well organized and worked smoothly.

Pam reported on the 11/21 and 11/28 Memorial Library book groups, which were also well attended.

Upcoming committee events.

12/10: public tour of Acton center by Amy Cole. Registration for this, which will be limited to 20 people, has been set up through the Recreation Commission.

Bob reported that **Joseph Adelman** has been lined up to speak about newspapers and the means of communication leading up to the Revolution on January 30. JA will be sending a bio and summary of the talk. **Mary Fuhrer** has offered to speak about the communications leading up to “Crown Resistance Day”, probably in September 2024.

In discussion, it was agreed to think about the timing for something on Phyllis Wheatley, who has been the subject of many recent area presentations and will be the focus of the library book group in March 2024. The question was also raised about the best use of a talk by Bob Gross, who could speak on many aspects of the local role in the Revolution.

Events publicity. For the 250th Committee, Chair Steve Trimble is in charge of the publicity. He has set up a page for Acton 250th Events on the Town web site, with links to You Tube.

Upcoming related events.

The Library staff have produced flyers for their upcoming event with potter Rick Hamelin on December 9 and for the Tewksbury library's virtual "Steeped in Secrecy" on 12/16

Action Unlimited ARTICLES.

Pam has drafted the next article, on *The Boston Tea Party: Myths and Realities*, which was briefly reviewed by the committee.

Anne noted that the planned article on *Acton in the 1770s* is still in the works. Due to AU's length constraints it is now projected to be split in two or three parts. The first will probably center on "territory", the second on "land use/transportation", and the third perhaps on demographics/population.

Other activities

Ideas for future activities and informational resources

In addition to the scavenger hunt and other ideas that have been raised, a quiz of some sort was suggested (to be discussed at the next meeting).

Bill pointed out that a central bulletin board is still needed to display 250th flyers and information—possibly at the library(?)

Another suggestion was the production of a flyer on "250th partners", perhaps in 4-fold format, with information on the 250th committee, Memorial Library, Acton Historical Society, and the Iron Work Farm.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. Next meeting: December 15, 10 a.m. at the library.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes