

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

January 12, 2024 Meeting minutes

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

The meeting was called to order by chair Pamela Lynn at 10:40 in the Acton Memorial Library second-floor conference room.

Approval of past minutes.

Minutes of the December 15 meeting were accepted as written.

Confirmed schedule

Upcoming Acton 250th meetings and events:

January 26, 10:30 a.m.: Acton 250th History Subcommittee meeting

January 29, 7 p.m.: Acton 250th Committee meeting

January 30: 7 p.m.: Joseph Adelman: talk on 18th-century newspapers

February 9: 10:30 a.m.: Acton 250th History Subcommittee meeting

Updates and reports; review of recent events and meetings, etc.

Past events.

12/17: 16 people attended the rescheduled (from 12/10) public tour of Acton center with Amy Cole. All were enthusiastic, and Bob proposed that we repeat it again, possibly this spring. *The Acton Exchange* plans to include a report on it.

Upcoming events and meetings

1/19, 9:30 a.m.: Acton schools rep. Dora Sanchez will meet with Pam to look over the library museum objects and Pine Hawk artifacts, with a view of how they might be included in the elementary curriculum. One idea is that it might lead into a town scavenger hunt.

1/30: Joseph Adelman talk on 18th-century newspapers. (Snow date: 2/12).

Plans and the “run of show” were reviewed:

- Publicity: We will ask the publicity committee for flyers that we can post. Rebecca Schmidt will see that the flyer or *Action* article is posted on the library bulletin board.
- Registration will be requested this time. It has been set up to go through the library.
- Speaker's paycheck: Bob hopes to get this from the Town in time for the event.

Bob reported that J.L. Bell has agreed to give a lecture. A date and topic have yet to be decided.

2024/1774 program planning.

Preparation and resources: In forming ideas for the coming year, Pam recommended that we all read Mary Beth Norton's *The Long Year of Revolution*, and think about what we might emphasize. She also recommended we look at Todd Andrlik's *Reporting the Revolutionary War*. In understanding the year of 1774, Anne recommended Minute Man Park's guidance and summary Rise to Rebellion, which divides 12/1773 to 6/1775 into four periods of action: “Catalyst”, “Radicalization”, “Organization”, and “Rebellion”.

Pam also plans to attend Concord's 250th History Subcommittee meetings to see what they are planning, as well as the upcoming meeting of The Hive.

Other useful resources were also discussed, including several recent publications about Phyllis Wheatley and David Hackett Fisher's 2022 *African Founders*.

Action Unlimited articles.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed to include the authors' names on the historical articles submitted to *AU*, but not on the announcements of programs and events, etc.

In ideas for future articles, Bill suggested at least one about the early Acton church records, and other relevant Acton items, including the church silver service, which we might also try to have displayed at the library.

Other activities

Ideas for future activities and informational resources will be taken up next time. More tours may be scheduled in the spring.

The "Useful materials list" still needs to be reviewed and updated.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. Next meeting: January 26, 10:30 a.m. at the library.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes