

**TOWN OF ACTON
250 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 26, 2023 - 7:00 PM
Town Hall, Room 9
APPROVED March 25, 2024**



Present: Steve Trimble - Chair, Steve Crosby (via ZOOM), Bob Ferrara, Anne Forbes, Mike Gowing (7:20), Anne Kadlec, Bill Klauer, Pam Lynn, Mary Price Maddox (7:10), Sue Peterman

Absent: Dean Charter **Others Present:** Rebecca Schmidt

Chair Steve Trimble called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Regular business.

There were no residents' concerns.

Steve T. is currently working on the committee report for the 2023 Annual Town Report.

Bob moved (Sue seconded) to accept the minutes of the January 29 meeting as amended. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. New/special business

A. History Subcommittee update.

Pam pointed out that we are nearly half-way through the timeline of our history subcommittee focus. The most recent presentation was a January 30 talk by Joseph Adelman on "The Revolution in the News". He has agreed to consult with us on various topics.

Pam also reported on the recent two-day meeting of The Hive, the regional organization for re-enactors, held in Concord on February 17-18. Organized together with Minute Man National Historical Park, the conference displayed much momentum toward the April 19 250th anniversary on the part of the Park, which is providing considerable information to the public on its website that can now be used as a guide for the local communities and their activities. Highlights included presentations by Park Ranger Jarrad Fuoss, Bob Allison as head of the state-wide 250th program, and a panel on the role of Lincoln, MA on 4/19/1775 which provided a useful comparison to that of Acton.

In information shared by various communities at the Hive event, it was noted that local policies vary—for instance, some schools allow muskets inside the buildings, while others don't. Steve C. reported that this year the Acton Minutemen will set up an encampment at the Concord Museum, and that some re-enactors from other towns have joined the Acton Minutemen.

Confirmed upcoming programs: The next scheduled program by the History subcommittee will be a talk by **J.L. Bell** on April 2. For the advance publicity, the committee proposes four versions: the town website notice, posters/handouts, and the advance registration form. Rebecca suggested that a social media graphic (digital poster) also be produced. The subcommittee suggested that the names of sponsors such as the Acton Lions Club, who have contributed \$ 1200, be added to the relevant publicity, to which the committee agreed. Steve T. will reach out to some other groups about becoming sponsors and contributing funds, such as the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce, Mass. Tourist Bureau, and Freedom's Way.

To have on hand at all the speakers' programs, the subcommittee is developing a "kit" of displays and handouts highlighting the various local 250th partnerships—the Acton Historical Society, the Iron Work Farm, and the Memorial Library.

April 6 and 12: **Two walking tours of Acton center** will again be led by Amy Cole. The committee recommends the publicity consist of one announcement for both.

June 24 (tentative): **Bob Allison**, for a second talk. Mary Price pointed out that to attract students, presentations should be scheduled before June.

September 25: a second talk by **Mary Fuhrer** in connection with Crown Resistance Day. Late October: **Bob Gross** has agreed to speak.

Tentative plans include:

May-July: a mini-series on 1775 "witness houses", to include 3-4 buildings in different formats, such as open-house tours of the Faulkner House, Jones Tavern, and the Hosmer House, and a slide lecture by David Hardt on the Nathaniel Edwards House.

November: the committee is still seeking a speaker for Native American History Month.

In related activities for this year, for Black History Month the book groups of the Library and League of Women Voters will emphasize poet Phyllis Wheatley, and are recommending David Hackett Fisher's *Black Founders*, or at least its first hundred pages.

Rebecca reported on an additional program idea that was received by the Library, from a John Adams re-enactor, who is offering a talk or performance on Adam's actions during our 250th time period. Mary Price suggested that it might be coordinated with the schools.

B. CPA Project: Isaac Davis Plow exhibit

Steve T. reported that he, Dean, and Steve C met with Marc Hald to discuss planning requirements, and that Larry Powers visited the current exhibit to assess it and offer advice. The current bulletin boards will be taken down, sconces with period-appropriate lights can be installed, and the space can be repainted. It was agreed that some artifacts can be mounted on the walls. Larry will recommend a muralist to execute the scenic background that has been proposed. The subcommittee is planning to seek grant funding for the installation. In discussion, it was suggested that some form of seating be included in the arrangement.

C. Publicity and merchandising committee report

Steve T. reported that John MacKinnon of MacKinnon Printing has donated considerable time and expertise to produce a fully developed line of 250th items to sell. It was agreed that his contribution should be recognized as a sponsorship, or in some other form

By 3/15, sales will be available online, and the committee is planning to have a full "kit" on display at the April 2 program, with merchandise samples of apparel, mugs, glassware, tote bags, and 250th pins, along with ordering information. The goal is to guarantee delivery by Patriots' Day if ordered by then. Some items have been pre-ordered in batches to save on costs, and to allow us to make a profit of \$5.00 on most items.

The committee has also been in communication with Peter Daniel of Rapscallion, who has offered to create a special 250th beer. The plan is to have it available both on tap and in cans. A motion by Sue (seconded by Bill) to create an Acton 250 beer was unanimously approved.

Publicity and communication plans. Bill suggested that we create a broadside of all the merchandise items to post around town. While lecture attendees are no longer being asked to

sign in, Steve T. distributed a spreadsheet of all the email addresses that have been collected to date, and asked everyone to send him names and addresses to be added.

D. Eagle Scout Project

Acton 250th Quiz. Mary Price reported on progress to date on this project, which has been taken on by high school students. They are currently working on a list of 250th related sites to be included, and she asked the committee members to think of appropriate ones.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Next meeting: March 25, Room 9, Town Hall

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Forbes
Clerk pro-tem