

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

February 23, 2024 Meeting minutes

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

The meeting was called to order by chair Pamela Lynn at 10:45 in the Acton Memorial Library second-floor conference room.

Approval of past minutes.

Minutes of the February 9 meeting were accepted as amended.

Confirmed upcoming schedule

Acton 250th meetings and events:

February 26: 7:30 p.m.: Acton 250th Committee meeting

March 8: 10:30 a.m.: Acton 250th History Subcommittee meeting

March 22: 10:30 a.m.: Acton 250th History Subcommittee meeting

March 25: Acton 250th Committee meeting

April 2: 7:00: John L. Bell: lecture

April 5: 10:30 a.m.: Acton 250th History Subcommittee meeting

April 6 and 12: Acton center walks with Amy Cole

Updates and reports; review of recent events, etc.

2/17-18: "The Hive" annual gathering. Pam attended this annual gathering of interpreters and historians, held at the Commonwealth Armory in Concord. Several knowledgeable historians gave presentations. Among what they emphasized was the complexity of the local climate leading up to the Revolution, the fragmentation of the various towns' views, etc. All strongly advised turning to the Minuteman Park website for supporting material.

Among the 2/18 speakers were Bob Allison, Bob Gross (Concord), Alex Cain (Lexington) and Don Haffner (Lincoln).

Upcoming 250th events

John Bell lecture, April 2. Everyone should review the draft announcement and article from the Publicity Committee and get back with any suggested edits

Two Acton center walks with Amy Cole, April 6 and 12. It was agreed that these two events should be publicized together. Also that we should make sure that all our event announcements are sent to Freedom's Way for publicizing.

2024/1774 continued planning.

The committee discussed presenting small panels of local speakers, perhaps using an interview format.

For scheduling more 2024 speakers, it was agreed that the best time for a second talk by Bob Allison would be early June, and Bob Gross in October. Anne will follow up with Bob Gross, and discuss what he might use as images in his talk.

Black History month (February) is nearly over for 2024. The library highlighted Phyllis Wheatley and David Hackett Fisher's *African Founders*. Pam suggested that we all read the first hundred pages of Fisher's book, at least.

For 2025, our February goal will be to showcase Acton's patriot of color John Oliver, and by extension the other members of his family.

Women's History month is in March. We should try to think of a topic for next year.

Other potential speakers. Bob reported he has had no luck with reaching Christine deLucia. Still looking for topics related to Native Americans, it was suggested we think about them in regard to the legacy of the French and Indian War.

House tour planning. Continuing the discussion from last meeting, Bob proposed holding an outdoor walk or tour of the Nathaniel Edwards House at 328 Pope Road, probably to be led by David Hardt and Amy Cole together. Since it would be outdoors, it could include some of the nearby Pope Road area, where there are a few early houses. Anne suggested that it might be organized as part of a series of visits to some 18th-century houses to be held in the late spring and summer. Some museum openings, such as those at the Iron Work Farm's Faulkner House and Jones Tavern, and the Historical Society's Hosmer House, would be already scheduled, and both the publicity and the content of those tours could emphasize the 250th theme.

Action Unlimited article. It was agreed that we should do at least one article on taverns of the time. Pam, Anne, and Bill will work on this.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45.

Next meeting: March 8, 10:30 a.m. at the library. The agenda will include a discussion of the "kit" to bring to the lectures for the entry table.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes