

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

March 22, 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 10:35 in the Acton Memorial Library second-floor conference room.

Approval of past minutes.

Minutes of the March 8 meeting were approved as amended.

Confirmed upcoming schedule

Acton 250th meetings and events:

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

May 3: 10:30 a.m.: Acton 250th History Subcommittee meeting

Preparation for upcoming Acton 250th Committee meeting

Our subcommittee report will emphasize that the presentation of Acton's history leading up to the Revolution is becoming more cohesive as we go along. The emphasis of lectures and articles has become more military, and there is more documentation available as we move through 1774.

We should look for how Acton 250 and local partners are publicizing the events of Patriots' Day weekend this year, and strive to get on top of it earlier than in the past. Improving access to information through the Acton 250th website should help, and we will request that all committee events be posted there. We also need to upgrade and better organize the informational displays at our speakers' events. Now that the 250th merchandise is becoming available, there will need to be two "kits" at the events—one for the merchandise, and one for the general information. The former will be the responsibility of the merchandising committee, and the latter will be organized by the history subcommittee. Our subcommittee's "kit" will include general information about the 250th and related events, items from our partner organizations, books by the speakers (present and past), etc. Anne will make some signs for the items in our "kit", and work with the committee on the general "matrix" sign about the partner organizations. The current draft needs to be more professionally formatted by the publicity committee, and partners' logos added. Bill suggested a list of 250th events be placed on the back side.

In related display news, the library staff plans to have a case for 250th merchandise on the first floor of the library. They will work with the merchandising committee on that.

Memorial Library's March focus on David Hackett Fischer's *The Odyssey of Phyllis Wheatley*

Pam reported that there has been considerable local interest in Fischer's book and in regional events organized around it. Mass. Historical Society, for instance, had a Women's History Month focus on a group of poets including Wheatley. The library is considering a similar emphasis for next year.

Future 250th events and planning

Bob distributed an updated schedule of confirmed and tentative speaker events.

Confirmed events:-

- John L. Bell lecture, April 2. We will again host the speaker for dinner at Not Your Average Joe's before the talk. Per town regulations, Pam will post the dinner as a subcommittee meeting.
- Two Acton center tours with Amy Cole, April 6 and 12. Plans are all set. Registration is required.
- Bob Allison has agreed to give another talk on May 29, to center on the 1774 progression from resistance to actual revolution.

Nathaniel Edwards House slide lecture, David Mitchell-Hardt. Bob will work on a June date for this, probably at the library. As discussed before, this talk will be part of a "mini-series" of highlights on pre-Revolutionary Acton houses, to coordinate with the Historical Society and Iron Work Farm open houses.

The scheduled fall talks by Mary Fuhrer and Bob Gross need titles. Anne will reach out to Bob about a title, and a confirmation of his topic.

In discussion about possible future speakers, sculptor and Acton resident Meredith Bergman was suggested. It was agreed that we should all check her website.

Action Unlimited articles

For Pam's upcoming article on 18th-century taverns, Bill and Anne will confirm the number that existed in Acton at the start of the Revolution. They also still need to finish the article on Acton in 1775. We also need to schedule Larry Kerpelman's approved article.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10. Next meeting: April 5, 10:30 a.m. at the library.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes