

TOWN OF ACTON
250 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 22, 2024 - 7:00 PM
Town Hall, Room 9
Approved July 18, 2024



Present: Bob Ferrara, Anne Forbes, Mike Gowing, Ann Kadlec, Bill Klauer, Pamela Lynn, Mary Price Maddox, Sue Peterman **Absent:** Dean Charter, Steve Crosby, Steve Trimble

In the absence of the Chair, Mike Gowing called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

I. Regular business.

There were no residents' concerns.

By unanimous vote, the minutes of the April 29 meeting were accepted as written.

II. Topics

1. Scouting project update: Scavenger Hunt

Mary Price presented an initial draft of seven possible sites prepared by Scout Aaryan Arora: Minuteman Park, the Hosmer House, "Iron Work Farm" (i.e. the Faulkner House?), Davis Plow and Library exhibits, Isaac Davis homesite, Old North Bridge, Lexington Green.

She explained that the project is geared to the 4th grade level, and will adhere to the schools' Social Studies Frameworks. Plans are for the participants to take a photo when they visit each site. There will be a one-page handout. John MacKinnon has been approached about producing paper(?) tricorn hats for each entrant. The History Subcommittee's comments on the content and the list of sites will be sought.

2. History Subcommittee update and upcoming 250th events.

Pam Lynn reported for the history subcommittee. Ann Kadlec noted that ActonTV's UTube videos have had 1.5 million views over four years; our committee is mounting whatever productions we can with them, especially the speakers' talks.

June 1, student walking tour Amy Cole has led another tour of Acton Center, and one is scheduled June 1 just for students. The latter has a limit of 25 registrants, and is only being scheduled through the AB schools.

May 26, "Still Here: Houses of our Patriots" begins with tours of the Iron Work Farm's Jones Tavern and Faulkner Homestead. The mini-series highlighting four period houses, their architecture, and their connection to the Revolution, will continue with programs on 6/10 and 7/7.

May 29, Bob Allison returns for a talk about affairs of 1773-early 1774 entitled “The Empire Strikes Back”. Plans for two display tables in Room 204, one for information and speakers’ books, etc., and one for merchandise, are all set.

Fall 2024 events will include talks by **Mary Fuhrer** on **9/25** (on the lead-up to Crown Resistance Day,) **Bob Gross** on **10/23**, and **Joel McKall** on **11/6**.

Tuesday 10/1 is the date for the “**beer event**”; (no name as yet). There will be no speaker; plans now are for a social event to double as a fundraiser and celebrate the launch of the Acton 250th “Isaac Davis Brown Ale”. It was suggested that Malcolm Purinton, who will speak in November about colonial taverns, be invited as a guest, but not to give a talk. The library has confirmed the event can be held there; other suggestions from the committee for venues were Jones Tavern and Acton TV studios.

As for 2025 events, Ann K. urged that we be planning for April 19, 2025 events now. It was agreed to take this up at the next meeting.

3. Publicity & Merchandising Subcommittee update

Publicity. The list of publicity outlets for our events continues to grow, but Sue emphasized that some have been inconsistent about publishing our notices. Mike asked that we make sure to include the new *Acton Exchange*.

Merchandise. Mike and Sue, reporting for the committee, said that sales of certain items are going quite well. A \$1200 profit has been made to date, and they have had to reorder the mugs, which seem to be the most popular item so far. The committee is planning more promotional efforts.

4. CPA project—Isaac Davis Plow

Mike reported that plans are moving along for the glass-enclosed display in Town Hall, which will include barnboard sides and a background landscape mural. The committee is considering including a few other agricultural artifacts as well as the plow.

The meeting ended with a brief discussion on the question of accepting and soliciting donations toward the 250th activities, as the committee has no dedicated budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Next meeting: June 24, Room 9, Town Hall

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Forbes
Clerk pro-tem