

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

June 28, 2024 meeting minutes

Attending: Bob Ferrara, Anne Forbes, Pamela Lynn Absent: Bill Klauer, 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, correspondence, etc.

Minutes of the May 30 meeting were approved as written.

Confirmed upcoming schedule:

Acton 250th meetings and events:

July 7, 2-5 PM: Hosmer House open house (3rd of house series)

July 16, 10:30: Acton 20th History Subcommittee meeting (rescheduled)

July 18, 7:00: Acton 250th Committee meeting (rescheduled)

Update on walking tours and plans for upcoming tours

Amy Cole is now working on a South Acton tour. Anne will assist with the planning and provide her with some background material. Amy's usual fee is \$200 per tour, and it was suggested that we work with the 250th committee to raise some donations or sponsorship support for these tours.

"Still Here: Houses of our Patriots", and continued planning

All agreed that David Hardt's slide talk on the Nathaniel Edwards House on June 10 was excellent. It is now available via ZOOM. Next is the 7/7 visit to the Hosmer House, where Bill K. and Anne F. will be on hand.

Bob has talked to the owner of the Harris House at 750 Main Street who has offered us a tour. But in discussion, it was decided that it would not be appropriate for the "Still Here" series because of the late (post-Revolution) date of all or most of its features. It was agreed that any buildings we highlight should be confirmed for a pre-1775 date. Anne offered to work with Bill on a potential list of any more houses that we might highlight in the coming year.

In a general planning discussion, it was agreed to begin gathering ideas for what to do on 4/19/2025. One suggestion has been to hold a party of some kind. And concerns continue to be raised about cultivating interest among younger people.

Publicity under the 250th Committee has been variable, but the library is now displaying posters of the events, and it was suggested that we ask them to put them on the outdoor bulletin board as well.

Concord 250th committee report. Pam attended their most recent meeting. She reported that their budget request is \$12,000. They are putting together "trunks" of documents as a curriculum resource for the 5th grade level. They may be emphasizing the Provincial Congress in their programs for fall 2024.

Possible future collaborations were briefly discussed—in particular with Pine Hawk and/or the Memorial Library. For both, we might look at jointly sponsoring speakers or books. Pam reported that the Library has scheduled Bob Gross's revised *Minutemen and their World* for their October book group—close to the time he will be giving a talk for us. She suggested that we also look for topics relating to the larger world, and an appropriate book on indigenous peoples.

Preparation for October 1 "Beer Fest".

This is mostly the work of the larger 250th committee. But it was suggested that we might schedule an article on taverns as a follow-up. Bob will plan to firm up an early November date for a talk by Malcolm Purinton—probably November 12. His fee will be \$300.

Other future planning.

Bob reported on the following firm and tentative plans:

Joel Bohy on 1/29/25 (confirmed): talk on a military topic

Meredith Bergman on 3/26/25 (confirmed): speaking about her various historical sculptures

William Fowler: tentative—a talk perhaps on Lafayette or the French & Indian War, maybe in December, or after 4/19/25

December and February are still open. The hope is still to schedule something on indigenous peoples; we also need to firm up another talk by John Bell.

As for articles, Anne still needs to clarify dates with Larry Kerpelman for his two articles, and we need to follow up with Steve Trimble on his draft article on Isaac Davis. Bob suggested we ask to have any relevant *Acton Exchange* articles posted on the town 250th website.

Eagle Scout project.

Aaryan Arora will be working on the history quiz over the summer. The format to present to the student participants was briefly discussed. Pam will give the Lexington quiz book to Mary Price to provide one example.

Upcoming 250th Committee meeting, July 18.

It was agreed that we should stress the need to get ready for some sort of April 19th celebration. The Acton Minutemen have suggested holding an encampment, probably at the town center. We also need to press for a funding campaign, probably soliciting business sponsors to support specific events.

Publicity still needs to be clarified with that subcommittee

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m. Next meeting: July 16, 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes