

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

October 25, 2024 meeting minutes *DRAFT*

Attending: Bob Ferrara, Anne Forbes, Bill Klauer, Pamela Lynn

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pamela Lynn at 10:35 a.m. in the Acton Memorial Library.

Approval of past minutes

By unanimous vote, the minutes of the October 11 meeting were approved as revised.

Upcoming schedule of Acton 250th and related events:

2024 October 28, Acton 250th Committee meeting
“ 29: Pine Hawk Book Group/AML: Wm. Cronon's *Changes in the Land*

November
“ 6: Joel Mackall, (AML) “Hidden History of Black Boston”
“ 8: History Subcommittee meeting
“ 9: Amy Cole: walking tour of South Acton
“ 12: Malcolm Purinton (AML): talk: “One for the Revolutionary Road”
“ 22: History Subcommittee meeting

December 5: Daniel Mandell: “Native Americans in Southern NE & the Revolution”

2025 January 29: Joel Bohy: “Dreadful Were the Vestiges of War”
February: Volunteer program for Black History Month
March 6: sculptor Meredith Bergman
Late March/April: John Bell: topic to be determined

REVIEW OF RECENT PROGRAMS and EVENTS

Bob Gross talk, 10/23, Town Hall: “Acton's (and Concord's) Roads to Revolution”

All agreed this worked well, even though the speaker did not show slides. There were again some technical problems with the live streaming of the event, and it has been decided that future talks will probably be televised only through ActonTV.

Many thanks were expressed for Tom Peterman's donation of the pre-lecture dinner at Not Your Average Joe's, which was attended by six people.

UPCOMING EVENTS and PROGRAMS

Tours. Amy Cole's 11/9 tour of South Acton center is nearly fully subscribed. Rain date is 11/10. Anne is working on the content with Amy. The tour will start and end at the Faulkner House, and the Iron Work will allow tour attendees to park there.

History scavenger hunt/Eagle Scout project

This is now underway. 5th-grade participants and their families will be guided to the eight sites in Acton, Concord, and Lexington by the map created by scout Aaryan Arora. Bob Gross has commented that Acton appears to be the only town that is integrating kids into the 250th events.

Talks

Pam pointed out that, due to the continuing turnover in the Library staff, our committee may need to help with the publicizing of some of these events.

11/6: Joel Mackall's "Hidden History of Black Boston" is a Library planned event at the Library, but it was agreed that we should bring the "kit" of information to display, perhaps in reduced form.

11/12: Malcolm Purinton, "One for the Revolutionary Road", also at the Library but planned by 250.

12/5: Daniel Mandell "will speak on Native Americans and the Revolution in southern New England. Co-sponsored with Pine Hawk. This will focus on the region after King Philip's War. Anne noted that it will be a logical follow-up to the online talk by Linda Coombs on 10/24 sponsored by the Partnership of Historic Bostons, which focused on the Native American communities in eastern New England in the earlier 17th century. Bob and Pam are due to meet the speaker for lunch today.

2025 program planning and continued scheduling

1/29/25: Joel Bohy, speaking on "Dreadful Were the Vestiges of War." He will probably emphasize armaments and the military. His draft bio. is in hand, and under review by the committee.

February:

A volunteer program for Black History Month is still under discussion. The format and participants are still to be determined, but it was decided that sometime late in the month would be the best timing (avoiding school vacation week), and that Room 204 would be the best venue. Bob will reserve the room.

3/6/25: Sculptor Meredith Bergman.

April: Potential dates for a talk by John Bell were again discussed. March 24 and April 1 were suggested. Bob will work on arranging the date. A topic still needs to be settled on—perhaps centering on the day of the April 19th battle.

Pam announced that the Library has planned a 250th reception/open house for the afternoon of 4/17, the same date as the Willard/Davis reunion's Acton day.

It was agreed that we need more clarification ASAP on the Willard/Davis reunion activities, and on the April activities to be held by both Concord and Acton, as well as the date of the Acton Minutemen's "Robbins Ride" (April 18?)

Next Acton 250th Committee meeting, April 28

It was agreed that we need to raise the question of what we will leave behind from the Acton 250th effort. Ideas raised in discussion included preserving the local stories, including capturing the content of lectures like those of Mary Fuhrer and Bob Gross. We also need to identify what's in storage in the Town Hall and elsewhere. For now, we might suggest preserving the content on the Acton 250th web page.

We also need to clarify with the committee where our committee's focus will end. Will it be with the Battle of Bunker Hill in June, 1775? The Declaration of Independence in July 1776 as suggested by the committee charge? Or some later date?

Articles. It was also agreed to discuss the delay in publishing previously submitted *Action Unlimited* articles with the 250th committee at the meeting on 10/28, as the paper seems to have stalled on their agreement to do this. We also hope that they can publish Pam's article on Acton's colonial taverns before Daniel Mandell's talk on 11/12, but that does not seem likely.

| The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m. Next meeting: Friday, November 8, 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes