

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee March 28, 2025 meeting MINUTES

Attending: Bob Ferrara, Anne Forbes, Bill Klauer, Pamela Lynn. Absent: Mary Price Maddox.
Also attending: Steve Trimble, Sue Peterman, Nancy Hunton

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pamela Lynn at 10:40 a.m. in the Acton Memorial Library.

Approval of past minutes

The minutes of the March 14 subcommittee meeting were unanimously approved as written.

Focus on March 31 event: John L. Bell lecture: Bob has asked John for a specific title for the talk. John expects to sell books.

Update on April Acton250th plans

Steve, as Chair of the Acton250th Committee, reported on some recent developments: At their most recent meeting, the Select Board discussed accepting the various gifts from the Willard/Davis family. The total value of the gifts is about \$40,000. Steve has drafted a letter to the board suggesting a few revisions regarding the signs and plaques, including a recommendation to place the proposed Minute Man memorial stone in front of the library rather than town hall. Also at the meeting there was some discussion about placing only objects and memorials specific to the Revolution on the monument triangle. That plan would entail relocating some of the objects presently there, such as the Vietnam memorial.

Willard/Davis family donations Both the Davis Plow exhibit and the installation of the donated signs and plaques are on schedule, with the exception of the memorial noted above. A bronze plaque for Room 204 in Town Hall is being discussed.

April 16th event: additional plans for 250th celebration:

- Organizations are invited to bring flyers, etc. to be placed together on an entry table (no sales items)
- Scavenger hunters who have completed the hunt will be honored
- Event budget is now \$2700.

April 18 Line of March walk: It is unknown how many people may participate, but Steve has ordered one bus and arranged for a porta-potty.

Post April 19th planning: “Beyond the Bridge”: It was agreed to focus on a better understanding of 1775 events after April 19, and coordinate presentations accordingly. Examples for topics might be the battle of Bunker Hill, Evacuation Day, and other regional events. Pam suggested we look for something associated with the immediate aftermath of 4/19.

Steve reiterated that he would like to see some sort of presentation on Acton's religious institutions.

As for articles, it was noted that Larry Kerpelman's two articles on Loyalists, which *The Exchange* still haven't published, would fit right in. Anne will get back to *The Exchange* on this.

Walking tours: The tours so far have all been popular, and several have been overbooked, and it was agreed to schedule more. The sign-ups' contact information will be kept on the general contact list.

For Town Meeting in May, the question was raised about asking a Minute Man to be on hand (if it is allowed).

Speakers--near future and 2025 summer focus: Among the ideas proposed for the near future were:

- June: A talk on Bunker Hill and the aftermath in Charlestown
- Nathaniel Philbrick: see his book on Bunker Hill
- Repeat speakers, especially Joel Bohy, Bob Allison, and JL Bell perhaps speaking on health and illness
- The siege of Boston

Other ideas raised included some small pop-up presentations, perhaps associated with the library's permanent exhibit.

Upcoming 250th meeting and event schedule

It was agreed to continue subcommittee meetings about every two weeks for the foreseeable future.

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| March | 31: John L. Bell lecture: "Spies and Military Intelligence" |
| April | 3: 250 th committee meeting |
| " | 5: Amy Cole: South Acton walking tour |
| " | 11: 250 th history subcommittee meeting |
| " | 16: 250 th local celebration, Discovery Museum |
| " | 17: Visit by Willard/Davis family reunion |
| " | 18: Acton Minutemen: North Bridge march and "Robbins Ride" |
| " | 25: 250 th history subcommittee meeting |
| " | 28: 250 th committee meeting |

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Next meeting: April 11

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes