

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee April 11, 2025 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 10:40 a.m. in the Acton Memorial Library.

Approval of past minutes

The minutes of the March 28 subcommittee meeting were unanimously approved as amended.

Action Exchange and publicity report. Nancy Hunton wrote a story about our committee for the most recent issue.

Review of March 31 event: John L. Bell lecture: “Spies of 1775”

All agreed that this was again an excellent talk. It was the most well-attended presentation to date. Unfortunately there were again technical coordination glitches with the Room 204 equipment. John's book-selling went smoothly but was unfortunately marred by a competing bootleg book seller, who we will watch for at future events.

Update on April 16 Acton250th plans

Plans for the town-wide celebration at the Discovery Museum were finalized at the last 250th committee meeting. Our subcommittee will monitor the community information table, and bring our usual “kit” of signs for partners and organizations, etc.

History scavenger hunt. This has concluded, and the 5th graders who completed the hunt will be honored at the April 16th party. There has been discussion about holding a similar hunt in the future.

April 18 will be the day of the Acton Minute Men's Line of March and “Robbins Ride”, etc.

Walking tours: The enthusiasm for these continues, and of the next two South Acton tours, Bob reported that the one for April 26 is full and the one for May 10 is filling fast. He said that Amy Cole is ready to do more. In discussion, the committee concluded that we might schedule a few more in the fall, probably in mid- and late September. One or two in South Acton and one or two in Acton center were suggested. Another suggestion was to schedule one of each in the summer.

Post April 19th planning: “Beyond the Bridge”: It was suggested that our future planning might involve the creation of a consortium of related (cultural) non-profits, starting with our present 250th partners.

In brainstorming planning for the next steps and events post-April 19 (probably to end with July 4, 2026), the following ideas for (mostly) returning speakers were discussed.

- Bob Allison: probably for the week of June 9. Bob F. will call him.
- John L. Bell: late next winter, perhaps for Evacuation Day(?)
- Joel Bohy: perhaps in early October(?) Ask him to focus on Actonians after the war(?) It was noted that we should watch the current PBS production on Revolutionary War weapons, which features Joel.
- Katy Turner Getty: recommended by JL Bell.
- Joe Adelman—to focus specifically on taverns and tavern culture.
- Joel MacKall: for next April(?)

Upcoming 250th meeting and event schedule

April	16: 250 th local celebration, Discovery Museum
“	17: Visit by Willard/Davis family reunion
“	18: Acton Minute Men: North Bridge march and “Robbins Ride”
“	25: 250 th history subcommittee meeting
“	28(?): 250 th committee meeting
May	23: 250 th history subcommittee meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Next meeting: April 25, 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes