

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

August 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 2:05 p.m. in the Acton Memorial Library.

Committee update

Pam announced the recent resignation of Bill Klauer from the History Subcommittee, which was accepted with regret by everyone present. She also proposed that we gauge the interest of a Boston tour company, Ted Clark, who is a recent Acton resident, about joining the committee.

Pam reported on a Mass. Historical Society announcement of a talk by Molly Beer on Sept. 23 based on her new book, *Angelica*, which centers on the role of women after the Revolutionary War. Pam will probably recommend the book for the Memorial Library book list.

Approval of past minutes

The minutes of the July 18 subcommittee meeting were unanimously accepted as amended.

Prep. for 8/11 Acton 250th Committee meeting.

There was a brief discussion about what to report to the full committee at their meeting tonight. We will include an update on the upcoming speaker plans and on the formation of the Acton Historical Alliance.

Prep. for Sept. 30 talk by Bob Allison

Pam and Bob reported on their recent conversation with Bob Allison in preparation for his next talk. The hope is that he will continue to emphasize the disruption and upheaval in the period between the beginning of the Revolution on April 19, 1775 and Evacuation Day in March 1776. Under the working title of “Beyond the Bridge”, they discussed a possible emphasis on what was happening in the fall of 1775, the beginning of arming the colonists, etc. Their conversation covered the possibility of Bob giving more talks in the future; he also expressed his strong appreciation for all that Acton has done for the 250th.

Focus on other future speakers and activities.

The names of several other speakers were suggested, some of them returning presenters, including JL Bell (for a focus on Evacuation Day), Don Hagist (possibly on the role of women), Joel Bohy (who collaborated on the upcoming November PBS film by Ken Burns), and several others to consider at least as resources, such as maritime historian Bill Fowler; Susie Buchanan, Director of the Eustis House; and Dierdre Anderson of Hingham. Bob Bellinger of Lexington and former head of A-A Studies at Suffolk U. has also been recommended. Anne offered to make an initial contact with him about speaking during early in February, Black History Month.

“Consortium” planning

The second meeting called by the proponents of the group now identifying as the “Acton Historical Alliance” took place on July 21. Pam and Bob were in attendance, and gave a brief report. Due to the regulations regarding town committee quorums, from now on Pam will post notices of the AHA meetings so that more than two of our subcommittee members can attend.

“Legacy List” update

Pam suggested the existing Acton 250th list of “moments that changed the world” might dovetail with the presentations, etc. to be included in the evolving list. Bob will continue to group the suggested entries on the list into categories and add a column to the master chart for that.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Next subcommittee meetings: Sept. 12.

Other meetings and events:

Sept. 11, 7 p.m.: Acton 250 Committee
Sept. 30: Bob Allison, (first fall 250th talk)

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes, Clerk