

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

September 29, 2025 meeting

MINUTES, amended

Attending: Bob Ferrara, Anne Forbes, Pamela Lynn. Absent: Mary Price Maddox.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pamela Lynn at 10:15 a.m. in the Acton Memorial Library.

Approval of past minutes; report of recent activities

The minutes of the September 12 subcommittee meeting were unanimously accepted as revised.

The South Acton walking tour with Amy Cole on September 27 was well-attended, mostly by high school students.

Anne reported on the recent lecture given by Larry Kerpelmann at the Senior Center on the loyalists of the 1770s. She will continue to pursue the *Acton Exchange* about publishing his articles on the same subject, which they have agreed to do.

“Beyond the bridge” planning (countdown to July 4, 1776), continued.

The immediate programming focus will continue to touch on post-April 19, 1775 events such as the siege of Boston, the battle of Fort Ticonderoga, etc. Pam mentioned that a simulation of the October 1774 Provincial Congress is planned for Oct. 11 at the Wright Tavern. She will check to see if it’s still on.

Bob announced that he has booked William Fowler for Monday, November 10. Bill’s specialty is maritime history, and it’s been suggested that he touch on the evacuation of Boston and the reasons the British navy left, for instance. Bill has a new book, and will bring copies to sell.

J.L. Bell will be asked to speak in late March 2026, and to follow Bill Fowler with an explanation of “Evacuation Day”, etc.

In a discussion of other possible speakers, it was agreed to pursue Alex Cain, who has been recommended (especially by Steve Crosby), for his knowledge of where the Minutemen, etc. went after the battle at the North Bridge. It was agreed that the best time to schedule his talk would be late January.

Walking tours. At its last meeting on Sept. 18, the Acton 250 committee discussed developing a continuation of the tour program that has been so successfully led by Amy Cole. Given that the 250th Committee will be winding down next year, the idea would be to continue the tours under the Town Celebrations Committee, which has been relatively inactive for a while. Meanwhile, the October 9 Acton Center tour is filling up very slowly, probably because it is scheduled for a Thursday rather than on a weekend.

Prep. for Bob Allison talk on September 30

Bob F. will take charge of the meeting set-up, and coordinate the IT, etc. The speaker will not be selling any books.

Prep. for next Acton Historical Alliance meeting, Oct. 9, Acton Senior Center

The mission statement is still being worked on, and feedback from associated groups is being sought. Pam has informed the Memorial Library Trustees about it, and they are supportive. The present draft wording was discussed by the subcommittee.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Next subcommittee meetings: Oct. 10, 10 a.m., Memorial Library
Oct. 24 (tentative)

Other meetings and events: Sept. 30: Bob Allison, Town Hall. (first fall 250th talk)
Oct. 9, 9 a.m.: Acton History Alliance meeting, Acton Senior Center
Oct. 9, 1 p.m.: Acton Center walking tour
Oct. 25, 1 p.m.: South Acton walking tour
Oct. 27, 7 p.m.: Acton 250 Committee
Nov. 10, 7 p.m.: William Fowler talk, Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes, Clerk