

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

October 10, 2025 meeting

MINUTES

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

The minutes of the September 29 subcommittee meeting were unanimously accepted with one correction. Subcommittee notes/minutes were also recorded for the meeting of the Acton Historical Alliance held on August 25, since a quorum of this committee attended. Those, too, were accepted as revised.

Review of recent events. Bob Allison's Sept. 30 talk was extremely well attended, including by nearly 100 students. All agreed that it was excellent, in spite of yet another technical problem with the Town Hall set-up. The solution found this time was to simply disconnect the town ZOOM controller and use only the direct HDMI connection to the large display screen.

Bob reported that Amy Cole's October 9 Acton Center walking tour, went well, and attracted about nine attendees—a smaller number than the other tours most likely due to its scheduling on a weekday afternoon. After the next South Acton tour on October 25, the plan is to transfer management of future tours to the Recreation Department. Details are still to be worked out, but attendees will be charged a fee.

Near-term and “Beyond the Bridge” planning focused on the next upcoming 250th speakers: Bill Fowler is scheduled for a talk on maritime history on November 10th, and Bob will connect with him to firm up a topic and draft the publicity after Oct. 16 when he returns from Europe. Alex Cain was reached by phone during the meeting for a discussion on several possible topics, of which a January talk about the civilian experience during the siege of Boston seemed to fit best with the committee's goals. He will be prepared to sell his upcoming book, and can take credit cards.

We will plan to include information about the November launch of Ken Burns' PBS series on The Revolutionary War in our upcoming publicity. Pam suggested we also highlight Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* as a resource that sheds light on the public thinking regarding the Revolution, as well as Scott Liell's current book about it, *46 Pages*, and also that we keep looking for any Revolutionary-era Acton events that might link to a future talk.

Review of progress to date on establishment of an Acton Historical Alliance (AHA)

The second AHA planning meeting was held on October 9 at the Acton Senior Center. Acton Veteran Services Director Jim MacRae was in attendance, and explained some of the functions and activities of his office. Work is progressing on a grant application for CPA funds to support an AHA website, with a subcommittee developing an RFP for the hiring of a consultant/webmaster.

Bob is in the process of setting up a group AHA email account and an associated Google Drive.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes, Clerk

NEXT MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Next subcommittee meetings: Oct. 24: 10 a.m.
Nov. 7: 10 a.m.

Other meetings and events: Oct. 25, 1 p.m.: South Acton Walking Tour
Oct. 27, 7 p.m.: Acton 250 Committee
Oct. 30, 9 a.m.: Acton Historical Alliance
Nov. 10: William Fowler talk