

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

March 23, 2023

Meeting minutes

Attending: Bob Ferrara, Anne Forbes, Pamela Lynn, Alissa Nicol, Marie Price Maddox, Sue Peterman

The first meeting of the Acton 250th History Subcommittee was called to order, with all members present, by temporary chair Pamela Lynn at 4:30 in the Acton Memorial Library conference room.

As the first item of business, the question of electing committee officers was taken up. As a result of the discussion, Alissa nominated Pamela Lynn to be the Chair. Bob seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Communications discussion

Mindful of the Open Meeting Law, the question was raised as to how to communicate on collections, historical questions, etc. It was pointed out that one-on-one conversations with individuals should be allowable, although members need to be careful to avoid discussions with anyone else from the main 250th committee. Examples of people we may want to converse with individually are local history scholars Bill Klauer, Paulina Knibbe, Lisa Soo, Susan Paju, Mary Fuhrer, and Bob Gross.

Introductions

Each attendee then introduced him or herself and gave a brief summary of their experience and interests:

Bob Ferrara: Involvement with the Friends of Pine Hawk, Acton Memorial Library; member of the Acton Historical Commission, and who has a general interest in Acton's Native American background. In the latter regard, Bob mentioned two upcoming talks—by Dan Boudillion of Littleton on 5/11 on his new book *History of the Nashoba Plantation*, and another by archaeologist Kimberley Connors, formerly of Acton, on 5/24.

Anne Forbes: An architectural historian, longtime board member of the Iron Work Farm in Acton and The Robbins House, Concord, as well as of town commissions. In regard to her work with local history, she pointed out some recent controversial historical claims that we should be aware of.

Alissa Nicol: An educator with a museum background, Alissa is currently a teaching assistant at Merriam School; she is a recent member of the Acton Historical Commission, and a former member of the Acton Minutemen. She has a special interest in early childhood education and history.

Sue Peterman: A graphic artist, Sue has done work for the Commonwealth Ballet and other organizations, and also designed stage sets. She has a long background with the DAR, has served on the boards of various organizations, and is interested in using her art skills for the 250th committee.

Pamela Lynn: Taught history at the high school for 40 years, including Russian history. Her volunteer work for the Acton library has also spanned decades. She is particularly focused on how the 250th committee will approach the interpretation of historical events,

and mentioned authors such as Clint Smith, author of *How the Word is Passed*, as someone whose guidance should be particularly helpful to us.

Mary Price Maddox: Has taught history at ABRHS for 19 years. She has jump-started our committee work by contributing an outline on how Acton's involvement before, during, and after the Revolutionary War intersects with our national story. She invited the committee to review the outline and make additions and comments.

Handouts distributed included:

- Mary Price's American Revolution timeline
- Relevant pages from Shattuck's 1835 *History of the Town of Concord*, Harold Phalen's 1954 *History of the Town of Acton*, and the Acton Historical Society's 1974 *A Brief History of Acton*.

Recommendations for other reading included Clint Smith's *How the Word is Passed*, Todd Andrlik's *Reporting the Revolutionary War*, and Bob Gross's recently revised *The Minutemen and Their World*.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETINGS: March 30, April 13

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Forbes