

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

June 8, 2023

Meeting minutes

Attending: Bob Ferrara, Anne Forbes, Bill Klauer, Pamela Lynn, Sue Peterman

The meeting was called to order by chair Pamela Lynn at 2:30 p.m. in the Acton Memorial Library conference room.

Minutes of the May 24th meeting were reviewed, and were unanimously approved.

Procedural matters

The meeting began with a discussion about how to maintain momentum with our planning, especially with the full Acton 250th committee and the stakeholders who have been identified. Among the latter, the ones who would be our most likely local collaborators are the **Acton libraries**, the **Acton Historical Society**, **Friends of Pine Hawk**, and **The Iron Work Farm**, as well as the obvious tie-in with the local schools.

Pam mentioned that the library trustees are energized to better archive their documents, and hope to hire an archivist in the near future. They and the library Director would also like to do more with the museum section of the main library. They are considering hiring docents. It was noted that, who and whatever is involved, DEI rules must be followed. In that regard, Anne offered to start a DEI-related reading list. The works of Clint Smith are one example of what might be included.

Recent progress and related resources, documents, and activities

Pam distributed some handouts and reported on some recent Freedom's Way (FW) highlights and activities, such as the webinar series podcasts “Revolutionary Stories”. For instance, reenactors and speakers in the Freedom's Way area have been Stacy Booth demonstrating cooking of the times, and Brian Cortez reenacting Dr. John Hart. Other FW sources to check out are the many episodes of the Revolution 250 podcasts, and Robert Allison's info. on the Boston Tea Party. The Mass. Historical Society's “Interpreting your town meeting records”, put together by Mary Fuhrer and accessible through the FW website, should also be helpful. Pam also recommended Stacy Schiff's book *The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams*”, which she hopes will be a library book club focus this fall.

Bob is working on some resource documents to post for the committee on Docushare, as well as working documents such as the evolving speakers' list and the timeline/frameworks.

Speakers update

Bob reported that he has recently spoken to the following about giving talks:

- Amy Cole, who has agreed to do a cemetery tour or other presentation
- Robert Allison: will meet with him during the summer
- Mary Fuhrer: has agreed to speak; will meet with her soon
- Katherine Grandjean: has contacted her; hasn't heard back
- Linda McElroy: agreed to speak, but not to conduct a walk.

As for other sponsored activities, Pam has lined up Bill McKibben's *The Flag, the Cross, and the Station Wagon*, to be the library's book club choice for September.

Planning timeline progress

Sue has updated the timeline/framework chart, and will next convert it to an Excel document. She will also make a second chart for just the *Action Unlimited* articles.

Action Unlimited articles. It was agreed that it's time to approach the full Acton 250th committee for volunteers to write some of the *AU* articles. To do so, we need to have some ground rules ready for the committee's meeting on 6/26, such as setting draft deadlines, *AU*'s requirements, our process of proofreading/editing, etc. At our next meeting we should also prepare one(?) article as a model.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Next meeting: June 22, 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Forbes