

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

January 26, 2024 Meeting minutes

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

The meeting was called to order by chair Pamela Lynn at 10:40 in the Acton Memorial Library second-floor conference room.

Approval of past minutes.

Minutes of the January 12 meeting were accepted as amended.

Confirmed schedule

Upcoming Acton 250th meetings and events:

January 29, 7 p.m.: Acton 250th Committee meeting

January 30: 7 p.m.: Joseph Adelman: talk on 18th-century newspapers

February 9: 10:30 a.m.: Acton 250th History Subcommittee meeting

February 23: 10:30 a.m.: “ “ “ “ “ “

April 2: John L. Bell: lecture

Updates and reports: review of recent events, articles and meetings, etc.

Past articles. The most recent *Action Unlimited* article was Pam's "New Year's Resolutions" piece, published on January 5.

Meetings and discussions. Pam reported on the following:

1/19: visit by school rep. Dora Sanchez to the library, her conversation with library staff, etc.: Concern was expressed about the upcoming override vote, and whether it might affect the staff of both the library and the schools.

1/25: a discussion at the Library Trustees meeting that displayed the growing unity between the library and the 250th efforts.

Upcoming events and meetings

1/30: Joseph Adelman talk on 18th-century newspapers. Bob has arranged dinner at Not Your Average Joe's beforehand; he, Pam, and Anne will attend. Pam will introduce the speaker, and give a general introduction to the year of 1774. Bob and Steve Trimble will handle the audience questions. Joe will bring copies of his book to sell, and will handle the payments himself. Pam will have copies of the "New Year's resolutions" article made for distribution. It was agreed that the "resolutions" topic can be revisited during the year, especially with the students who will be attending the lectures.

2/17-18: The Hive (see below)

3/19: the library book group will discuss *The Odyssey of Phyllis Wheatley*. David Hackett Fisher's *African Founders* will also be emphasized, and work will continue on material related to Black History Month in February.

4/2: John Bell, author of *The Road to Concord* and blog-master of the daily “Boston 1775”, has been scheduled to give a talk. In reviewing the Minuteman Park’s timeline of frameworks leading to the Revolution, he will be mindful that mid-1774 was the “radicalization” phase. All were encouraged to review the frameworks, and to read the section of John’s book on the summer of 1774, which describes the local militias.

2024/1774 continued program planning.

Pam attended the last Concord 250th History Subcommittee meeting, where she spoke to Bob Gross, who is interested in giving a talk for us. Anne will follow up with him. Pam also suggested that we ask Bob Allison to give another talk in 2024. It was agreed to ask Amy Cole to repeat the Acton Center tour again at least once—maybe in April(?)

Pam distributed the 2/17-18 program for The Hive gathering in Concord on 2/17-18, which may provide some ideas for future speakers. She plans to attend, and encouraged the other committee members to go, as well.

Pop-ups discussion: Pam introduced the idea of creating some opportunities for “pop-ups” (short presentations on narrow topics). One idea was to focus on Phyllis Wheatley’s New Year poem for 1774. Pam may ask teacher Terri House to stage one in the library.

Publicity: It was suggested that we ask the publicity committee to create simpler, more poster-like flyers to hang around town, as it was agreed that some recent ones were too long, with print too small, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00. Next meeting: February 9, 10:30 a.m. at the library.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes