

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

May 3, 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 10:02 in the Acton Memorial Library second-floor conference room.

Approval of past minutes.

Minutes of the April 5 meeting were approved as written. A question was asked as to whether minutes of other 250th subcommittees are available, as none are posted on the town website.

Confirmed upcoming schedule:

Acton 250th meetings and spring events:

May 17: 10:30 a.m.: Acton 250th History Subcommittee meeting

May 22: Acton 250th Committee meeting

May 24: Acton Center tour-Amy Cole

May 26: Faulkner House and Jones Tavern open house (1st of house series)

May 29: 7:00: Bob Allison lecture

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

June 1: Acton Center tour for A-B students-Amy Cole

Patriots' Day 2024 review

The Patriots' Day weekend events were briefly discussed. Pam reported that there were very few walkers this year for the Isaac Davis Trail march. It was noted that the "Isaac Davis House", where the Davis Trail walk begins, is not actually Isaac Davis's residence, as it was built (possibly incorporating some pieces of the original house) close to the middle of the 19th century. (See attached MACRIS inventory form). It was suggested that this might be a good candidate for a brief 250th article, to coordinate with Steve Trimble's on Capt. Isaac Davis. Another suggested related article topic was a clarification of the actual alarm riders in Acton.

There is no information as yet about the Town's plans for Patriots' Day 2025, and it was not clear who will be in charge of the activities.

Review of April 29 Acton 250th Committee meeting.

Bob gave a subcommittee report and presented the updated timeline of scheduled and tentative events. He also presented our concerns about the Room 204 arrangement, with a sketch plan of the requested layout of tables, etc. Since the room is set up on the afternoon of a lecture, Bob offered to go at 4 p.m. next time to make sure there is a display table available, etc.

Finances were briefly discussed. The committee clarified that there is no line item in the town budget for the 250th, so we will be relying on donations. A few donations have been received this year, but it was agreed that we should work with the larger committee about soliciting more, including some sponsorships, as most of the speakers have been promised an honorarium of \$200-400.

In the committee's discussion about John Bell's April lecture, the reaction was positive, noting that he presented new information, including more details about the Acton area leading up to the Revolution. The committee also noted that the Acton center tours have been successful, and would like to see us schedule more over the next year. The next one is set for May 24, and it was

agreed to again do pre-registrations through the library. Mary Price Maddox and Rebecca Schmidt will work out the logistics for that and the next one for A-B students.

Ann Kadlec of the committee offered to put together some short Acton TV promos for future programs.

Mary Price Maddox and Eagle Scout Aaryan Arora presented a report on the planned scavenger hunt to both the committee and the Selectboard. Aaryan has scoped out seven sites, and our subcommittee will be asked to review the list and any back-up information he has gathered.

Preparation for next events

Bob Allison, May 29. This will again be in Room 204. For the anticipated display table, by 5/17 Anne and Pam will work on an announcement of coming events to display, and will also plan to showcase speakers' and "partners'" books, brochures and information.

House series: 5/26, 6/10, 7/7. Tentatively titled "Still there (or "Still here"?): Houses of Our Patriots." Also by 5/17 plans should be firmed up and draft publicity written. Anne will work on the announcement(s) and descriptions.

Upcoming speakers

In connection with the early September talk by Malcolm Purinton, together with the Library Acton 250 is planning a social event involving a beer sampling. This will coincide with the launch of an Acton 250 beer that is being developed by the Merchandising Committee. We also plan to publish an article on local taverns of the time. In that regard, Bill suggested we investigate regional hops growing, and when it began.

Bob reported a conversation with sculptor Meredith Bergman, who has agreed to give a talk, possibly during Women's History Month next year.

Future articles

A draft by Larry Kerpelman splitting his article on "The Plight of the Massachusetts Loyalists" into two parts was reviewed and approved by the committee, for tentative publishing in *Action Unlimited* in August. Per our prior discussion, it was confirmed that articles by non-committee members will include the author's name. Anne and Pam will coordinate this with Larry and with Sue Peterman for *AU*.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. Next meeting: May 17, 10:30 a.m. at the library.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes