

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

May 17, 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, correspondence, etc.

Minutes of the May 3 meeting were approved as revised.

250 Committee Chair Steve Trimble has clarified some communication requirements with town staff: for instance, for the town newsletter/municipal monthly, all 250th announcements and publicity items must be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to the event.

Confirmed upcoming schedule:

Acton 250th meetings and spring events:

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
June 10: 7:00, AML: David Hardt talk on Nathaniel Edwards House (2nd of house series)
June 24: Acton 250th Committee meeting
June 28: 10:30: Acton 250th History Subcommittee meeting (finalize Sept. beer event)
July 7: Hosmer House open house (3rd of house series)
July 29: Acton 250th Committee meeting

Prep. for May 22 Acton 250th Committee meeting.

We will reiterate our subcommittee request for a display table against the south wall of Room 204 during the speaker events. Bob F. plans to introduce more plans for the 9/11 social event, when the Acton 250th beer will be offered. We plan to invite Malcolm Purinton, who is scheduled to speak about colonial drinking, etc. on 9/16. Bob will clarify the location, and seek feedback on whether any student involvement is allowed or appropriate.

Preparation for next events

Next tours of Acton Center, 5/24 and 6/1. Bob reported these are all set with Amy Cole. It was agreed to consider offering more tours in the future.

Bob Allison, May 29. "The Empire Strikes Back." This will again be in Room 204. Pam and Anne will set up the information table, with an announcement of coming events to display, and a display of speakers' and "partners'" books, brochures and information. The speaker's books for sale, 250th merchandise, and student sign-ins will be at other tables.

Bob F. has drafted the event announcement, to be sent to Sue Peterman of the Publicity Committee. It is hoped that *Action Unlimited* will publish it. We again plan to invite the speaker to dinner beforehand. It was agreed to keep the group small, probably adding just one or possibly two 250th committee members this time.

House series: 5/26, 6/10, 7/7: "Still Here: Houses of Our Patriots." The Iron Work Farm is getting ready for the two 5/26 open houses in South Acton and has done some publicity. Bob F. plans to meet with David Hardt about his 6/10 talk on the Edwards House. Our subcommittee is reviewing Bob's draft announcement for it; he will send the final to the Publicity Committee.

Preparation for future events

11:45: A conference call was held with Joel Bohy, who has agreed to give a talk in January 2025. In discussing possible topics, he suggested something on military history involving the battle at Concord's North Bridge, which can probably include info. on Elisha Jones and James Heywood, whose houses were nearby.

Bob will keep following up with sculptor Meredith Bergman about a talk in March 2025.

Crown Resistance Day, Mary Fuhrer talk, etc. Plans are set with Mary to speak about the topic in September. It was agreed that we should do an article on it. Bill reminded the group that we should start by consulting Brewster Conant's research on it, on file at the Historical Society.

The idea of doing something on Private John Oliver during Black history month in February was again raised. Bill and Anne will brainstorm this. In some related information, Bill reported that the Historical Commission, mindful of the town's Archaeological Bylaw, plans to hire an archaeologist to examine the Oliver farm site on Quarry Road.

Scavenger hunt. Our committee will review the proposed list of seven sites when it is ready.

History quiz. It was agreed to pursue this idea and talk about how it might be structured. One idea raised by Bill was that it might include a question about the 13 original colonies.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m. Next meeting: May 30, 10:30 a.m. at the library.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes