

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

July 16, 2024 meeting minutes

Attending: Bob Ferrara, Anne Forbes, Bill Klauer, Pamela Lynn, Mary Price Maddox (11:05)
Also: John Mangiaratti

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 June 28 meeting were approved as revised.

Confirmed Acton 250th upcoming schedule:

July 18, 7:00: Acton 250th Committee meeting
August 12, 11:45: History Subcommittee meeting
August 26, 9:30: History Subcommittee meeting
“ “ , 7:00: Acton 250th Committee meeting
September 13, 10:30: History Subcommittee meeting
“ 25 7:00: Mary Fuhrer: talk on Crown Resistance day
“ 30, 7:00: Acton 250th Committee meeting
October 1, Memorial Library: “beer fest”--launch of 250th beer

Update on walking tours and plans for upcoming tours

Amy Cole is on board for leading a South Acton tour on November 9. Although very few of the standing resources there date to before 1775, it was suggested that we ask Amy to stress what the Revolution made possible for that area—development of commerce, expansion of industry, etc.

An additional tour of Acton center has been requested; there have also been suggestions for a tour of the Concord Road section of East Acton.

“Still Here: Houses of our Patriots”, review and continued planning

It has also been requested that we hold this series again—possibly after 4/19/2025.

There was a brief follow-up to last month’s discussion about the Harris House at 750 Main Street. Bill K., who had been absent for the last discussion, noted that Robert Nylander had confirmed that the rear ell contains the pre-1775 Harris House.

Acton 250th committee: preparation for 7/18 meeting.

Bob offered to give a report for the history committee. He will give an overview of our confirmed upcoming programs: Next is Mary Fuhrer’s 9/25 talk, and he will ask that the publicity about it be ready by 8/15. Mary will be speaking about Crown Resistance Day, and Bill will provide her with the background research that is on file at the Historical Society.

It is our understanding that the History Scavenger Hunt should also be ready by 9/25, and that the arrangements for the October 1 Beer Launch have been confirmed with the Library.

We hope to hear more about all of the above at the 7/18 meeting, as well as more details about the publicity process, efforts to engage potential business sponsors, and ideas for any celebratory events on 10/1 and 4/19. We also need to reconnect with Ann Kadlec about her offer to do a video on the “Still Here” series.

Eagle Scout project/Scavenger Hunt.

Mary Price reported on the planning for the history scavenger hunt. The project will be introduced in the elementary schools in conjunction with the Acton Minutemen, who will drill at each of the schools. Arayan Arora is working with Sue Peterman on a map of the sites, and in arranging for tricorne hats for the participants.

Arayan's final list of sites is as follows:

James Barrett House, Concord
Old North Bridge, Concord
Battle Green, Lexington
Faulkner Homestead, Acton
Jonathan Hosmer House, Acton
Isaac Davis home site, Acton
Acton town center: Isaac Davis Monument, Isaac Davis plow, and library exhibit

The committee asked if he might introduce the scavenger hunt at Mary Fuhrer's talk on September 25, which would coincide with the beginning of the project. Arayan has also raised the idea of holding some sort of related celebration at the Faulkner House at the end of the alarm ride in April.

Another student, Adjai Krishman, is working on a related website and tours, and may ask for our committee's advice as he goes along.

250th "Kit", displays, partnerships, etc.

To display at our events, we still need handouts from two of our partners—the Acton Minutemen and Friends of Pine Hawk. A question was raised about including the Discovery Museum. The conclusion was that we should not, but that we might ask Arayan to contact them.

Town Manager John Mangiaratti joined the meeting briefly about 11:30.

He announced that the town budget has allotted \$5,000 per year to the 250th efforts.

Other future planning.

Events. A proposal was made to ask Amy Cole to give a presentation on John Oliver, probably in February, 2025, Black history month. This is still to be discussed; it was noted that if she does this, she needs to work with the Historical Society and The Robbins House, where extensive research has been done on him and the Oliver family.

Articles. More *Action Unlimited* articles have been discussed, including two by Larry Kerpelman that are ready to go, and one by Steve Trimble on Isaac Davis. A schedule for these should be finalized at the next meeting.

Anne suggested we think of a way to archive all the articles for future retrieval by the public. Maybe on the website? Some form of a booklet?

Other ideas. Mary Price suggested we think of ways to get students and others more involved. For instance, could the school newspaper staff do some reporting? What about a trivia night perhaps in the junior high, or at local venues such as local bars, or the Council on Aging? Maybe combine it with our quiz idea, or add it to the beer fest on 10/1?

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m. Next meeting: August 12, 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes