

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

August 26, 2024 meeting minutes

Attending: Bob Ferrara, Anne Forbes, Bill Klauer, Pamela Lynn, Mary Price Maddox.
Also attending: Aaryan Arora

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pamela Lynn at 9:40 a.m. in the Acton Memorial Library second-floor conference room.

Pam announced that Rebecca Schmidt, who has been coordinating the 250th items with the Library, will be leaving her position this week.

Approval of past minutes

By unanimous vote, the minutes of the August 12 meeting were approved with one revision.

Updated Acton 250th schedule:

August 26, 7:00 pm: Acton 250th Committee meeting
September 11: launch of Isaac Davis Ale at Dirigible Brewing Co.
" 13, 10:30: History Subcommittee meeting (prepare "kit" for next program)
" 25 7:00: Mary Fuhrer: talk on Crown Resistance day
" 30, 7:00: Acton 250th Committee meeting (may request a change in date)
October 1, Memorial Library: "beer fest"—Acton launch of 250th Isaac Davis Ale
" 11, 10:30: History Subcommittee meeting
" 25: History Subcommittee meeting
November 8: History Subcommittee meeting

Eagle Scout project (Scavenger Hunt) and coordination with AB schools

Eagle Scout Aaryan Arora was present to give an update on the project. He has met with the Superintendent and other officials, as well as the 5th grade teachers, who have agreed to follow the chronology of local events leading up to April 19 in their curriculum. Aaryan has visited several of the sites included in the hunt and will review his research and summaries with our committee as he goes along.

The list of seven sites to be visited was confirmed as: In Acton: the Faulkner House, site of the Isaac Davis Homestead, Jonathan Hosmer House, Isaac Davis plow in Town Hall; the North Bridge and James Barrett House in Concord, and Lexington Green. The significance of some of the sites and their particular relevance to April 19 was briefly discussed. Anne will send Aaryan various informational pieces on some of them.

Acton 250th committee: preparation for 8/26 meeting.

As noted at the last meeting, at tonight's committee meeting we will emphasize the need for better integration of the ZOOM participants at the committee meetings, and better monitoring of the sound. For the poster of upcoming events that the Publicity Committee is planning, we will make sure that the Scavenger Hunt is added, and that the relevant "partners" events and their websites are included. We will also request some additions to the past events on the 250th website.

Steve Trimble has mentioned applying for a Freedom's Way Heritage(?) grant this fall, and we look forward to hearing more about those plans.

Update on Mary Fuhrer talk, Sept. 25

It was agreed to invite Mary to dinner beforehand. Bill will see about putting some of the existing Crown Resistance Day material in the Acton Historical Society files onto the AHS website.

Bob Gross lecture, October 23

Arrangements are all set. The draft write-up on the talk for the 250th website will be reviewed and shortened.

Possible event for Black History Month 2025.

The discussion from last time about a talk on local Patriot of Color John Oliver and his family was continued. Anne stressed that it should probably emphasize his legacy over several generations, the local Oliver properties, etc. It was reported that Town Manager John Mangiaratti has applied for a “soldiers of color” grant of some sort, but we have no information on this to date.

Scheduling future articles and other programming.

Anne has sent Larry Kerpelman’s two articles on the local Loyalists to the Publicity Committee for publication in *Action Unlimited*. Pam’s article on taverns (still to be reviewed) will be next, hopefully to be scheduled for publication around the time of the fall activities focusing on the Isaac Davis ale, Malcolm Purinton’s talk, etc. Bill will look for relevant material in the AHS files.

Other future planning.

In a brief discussion on what our final Acton 250th events may be post-April 19, it was agreed to look at the ultimate transition to a democracy/republic and how that might have played out at the local level.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Next meeting: September 13, 10:30 a.m.: bring items for the “kit” at the next talk.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes