

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

November 8, 2024 meeting minutes

Attending: Bob Ferrara, Anne Forbes, Bill Klauer, Pamela Lynn

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pamela Lynn at 10:05 a.m. in the Acton Memorial Library.

Approval of past minutes

By unanimous vote, the minutes of the October 25 meeting were approved as amended.

Schedule of upcoming Acton 250th and related events:

2024 November 9: Amy Cole: walking tour of South Acton
“ 12: Malcolm Purinton (AML): talk: “One for the Revolutionary Road”
“ 22: History Subcommittee meeting
December 5: Daniel Mandell: “Native Americans in Southern NE & the Revolution”
“ 12: Acton 250th Committee meeting
“ 13: History Subcommittee meeting
2025 January 17: History Subcommittee meeting
“ 29: Joel Bohy: “Dreadful Were the Vestiges of War”
February 26: Volunteer program for Black History Month
March 6: sculptor Meredith Bergman
“ 31: John Bell: topic to be determined

SCHEDULING, PUBLICIZING EVENTS, etc.

Pam reported on the continuing turnover of Library personnel, especially regarding programming, and pointed out that we need to keep feeding them flyers and material to post, both for indoors and on the outside bulletin board.

It was agreed that the promotion of 250th events still needs to be improved; we will keep working with the Publicity Committee on that. It was suggested that we create a poster about the 250th beer to distribute, and to display at our events.

REVIEW OF 10/28 250th COMMITTEE MEETING and PLANS FOR APRIL 2025

250th town-wide plans for the April 19th commemoration are proceeding slowly. Some sort of large celebration is scheduled for April 17, but it was agreed that because of several unknown factors it would be good to formulate some back-up plans.

REVIEW OF RECENT PROGRAMS and EVENTS

Acton 250th was co-sponsor of the two most recent programs—the Library book group’s discussion of William Cronon’s *Changes in the Land*, and Joel Mackall’s talk on the Hidden History of Black Boston”. The many slides that accompanied the Mackall talk were particularly engaging, but unfortunately that talk was not recorded or simulcast. (ActonTV is not recording programs held in the library; it will be up to the 250th Committee to do any filming there).

We still need more Pine Hawk informational material for the display table. Bob will keep in touch with them on that.

UPCOMING EVENTS and PROGRAMS

Tours. Amy Cole's 11/9 tour of South Acton center is sold out. All the tours require pre-registration, which is being handled by the Library. There were a few glitches with the registrations this time, but that seems to have been corrected.

250th Scavenger hunt. Several days for the Faulkner House and Hosmer House have been scheduled over the next few months for the students to access the buildings. Anne reported that the first one at the Faulkner House, which overlapped with an Iron Work Farm open house, went smoothly. Bob reported that a final group gathering for the hunt participants in the spring has not yet been scheduled.

Lectures. The question of arranging snow dates for the winter programs was discussed. Bob will check with Town Hall on this.

11/12: Malcolm Purinton, "One for the Revolutionary Road" is cosponsored with the Library. Bob will send around the "run of show," and has invited the speaker to dinner beforehand.

12/5: Daniel Mandell, "The Times Are Exceedingly Altered " will be next, in Room 204, Town Hall. Co-sponsored with Friends of Pine Hawk.

1/29/25: Joel Bohy. "Dreadful Were the Vestiges of War." Room 204, Town Hall. Bio. still to be reviewed.

2/26: Acton's Black History presentation (no title as yet). Bill and Anne reported that the Acton Historical Society has taken charge of this, and a planning subcommittee will be meeting next week. Room 204 has been reserved.

3/6: Sculptor Meredith Bergman. Room 204, Town Hall. Bob and Pam are arranging a lunch meeting with the speaker to work out the details.

3/31: John Bell. Room 204, Town Hall. This will be John's second talk. Details are still to be worked out.

April, 2025

Plans are still in formation for the Library's planned 250th reception/open house for the afternoon of 4/17, from 4-8 p.m. A final gathering for the Scavenger Hunt may be scheduled earlier that afternoon.

An April 250th event at the Senior Center is also under discussion. This may include repeating an informational program, or a catered "bistro dinner." The Friends of the COA plan to meet in January to discuss ideas.

ARTICLES. The failure of *Action Unlimited* to publish our submitted articles was taken up again. Anne has recontacted the paper about Larry Kerpelman's two articles, which were submitted twice with no results. They have also not published the submitted article on taverns. In discussion, it was suggested that we try instead (or in addition) to see if the *Acton Exchange* might publish them. Another idea was to ask the Acton Historical Society to include them in their newsletters.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m. Next meeting: Friday, November 22, 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes