

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

May 8, 2025 meeting

MINUTES

Attending: Bob Ferrara, Anne Forbes, Pamela Lynn. Also attending: Steve Trimble, Acton250 Committee Chair
Absent: Bill Klauer, Mary Price Maddox.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pamela Lynn at 10:35 a.m. in the Acton Memorial Library.

Pam reported that she drove with Bob Gross to a presentation at the Commonwealth Museum by author Rick Atkinson, a military historian. She does not recommend Rick as an Acton250th speaker, but Bob suggested we consider Woody Holton, author of *Liberty is Sweet*, or author Scott Liell. It was agreed that we also might ask Bob G. to speak again, especially when the high school students can attend.

Approval of past minutes, etc.

The minutes of the April 25 subcommittee meeting were unanimously approved as written.

Update on installation of new signs and plaques contributed by the Willard/Davis family. Steve reported on the extensive Acton250th gift to the Town of signs, plaques, and memorials that was made by members of the Willard/Davis family association as part of their reunion activities over the week of April 19th. All are in place except for a few at the town center. The large Minute Man stone, originally proposed to be in front of Town Hall, is now being installed beside 17 Woodbury Lane and the town parking lot.

In a report on the April activities, Steve said that all went as planned, and even the 4/16 town celebration came in under budget. The committee agreed, and thanked him for all his leadership and hard work. Bob said he had spoken to Marie Beam, CEO of the Discovery Museum, and they would be willing to host another town-wide party in July, 2026. As for future organizing, Steve said he intends to reduce the frequency of committee meetings, but we will keep active, with a shift in focus toward the US bicentennial.

In discussion on upcoming subject matter, it was suggested that the focus might now shift to the topic of “where did the Acton men go after April 19?”

As for re-organization, Steve suggested we might combine our efforts with the ongoing town Celebrations Committee. As for funding of activities, he asked if Community Preservation Funds might be available to support walks or speakers’ presentations. He also wondered what might be a funding source for the file organization efforts associated with our Legacy List. And could some activities be coordinated with the Recreation Committee?

“Legacy list” discussion

It was pointed out that we are moving toward a consortium concept, which will involve our ongoing partnerships, more coordination among stakeholders, etc. In that regard, Steve suggested that we try to transfer some of our material to the Acton Historical Society website. Anne recommended that the AHS officers be invited to a future subcommittee meeting. In any case, it was agreed to coordinate more with AHS, the Iron Work Farm, and other partners, beginning with more coordination in the promotion of events. For that, we will try to firm up some plans by late August.

“Beyond the Bridge”—planning for speakers, tours, etc.

Plans are in place for Bob Allison to give a talk in September, probably the week of the 14th. It is hoped that Joel Bohy can give another presentation late in the fall.

As discussed, we are also pursuing Katy Turner Getty (for mid-late June); Joe Adelman to speak on taverns, communication, etc.; also Bob Gross, and perhaps Larry Kerpelman. Subjects we hope to cover include Bunker Hill and its aftermath, Evacuation Day, etc.

Tours. The next tour of South Acton is scheduled for this coming Saturday. Although rain is again predicted, it was decided to hold it if at all possible. For the future, Amy Cole has agreed to give two more South Acton tours in the fall and two more Acton Center tours, probably starting in mid- and late September.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Next meetings: full committee, May 29; History Subcommittee, May 30. The subcommittee agenda will include more “legacy” planning.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes