

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

May 10, 2023

Meeting minutes

Attending: Bob Ferrara, Anne Forbes, Pamela Lynn, Sue Peterman.

The meeting was called to order by chair Pamela Lynn at 10:40 a.m. in the Acton Memorial Library conference room.

Minutes of the April 20 meeting were reviewed, and were unanimously approved with one amendment. Anne will send all the approved minutes to date to the Town Clerk.

Procedural matters

Although awaiting confirmation, it looks like Alissa Nicol is resigning from the committee because of her election to the Select Board. And our times will have to be adjusted to permit Mary Price Maddox to participate. Pam explained that, although we hope for some new members, our subcommittee cannot be larger than a quorum of the full Acton 250th Committee. The question of whether non-250 Committee members can serve on the subcommittee has yet to be answered; Pam will check on that. In the meantime, inviting guests to our meetings should be permissible.

Planning timeline and “framework”

Utilizing Bob’s draft chart of potential upcoming events and Sue’s three-year month-by-month timeline for 1773/2023 to 1775/2025, the committee continued the month-by-month coordination of present-day events, articles, etc. to parallel the course of the three pre-Revolution years.

Thanks to Sue’s communication with the editor of the weekly *Action Unlimited*, they have offered to publish a regular series of short (up to 300-words) articles to be written by 250th committee members. 250th Chair Steve Trimble, for instance, has already written a piece on Capt. Isaac Davis, which it was agreed should be published (in shortened form) in November, 2024 to parallel the founding of Acton’s Minuteman company and Davis’s appointment as its Captain.

1773/2023

The rest of the meeting was spent tentatively scheduling potential events, speakers, articles, etc. to coordinate with particular dates of importance in 1773, the first focus year in the lead-up to the Revolutionary War. Sue captured the details on the yearly charts (2023 – 2025) that she brought to the meeting.

The plans include the series of articles to appear regularly in *Action Unlimited* (AU), either monthly or bi-weekly. The hope is that an image, if available, can be published along with an article. Sue will coordinate this on the committee’s behalf, and will serve as liaison to AU. In addition to the topics to be coordinated by date, it was proposed that at least once each year a summary article be written about the general state of Acton as a town in that year.

Ideas for articles or events on **1773 topics** included the Tea Tax (October), the Boston Tea Party (December), and something on Samuel Adams, which would tie in with a new book that Pam plans to propose for the Memorial Library book group this fall. Highlighting particular **objects**, such as Isaac Davis’s plow, was also discussed.

1774/2024

For 1774/2024 the following topics were suggested:

- The closing of the port of Boston (spring)
- The Coercive Acts
- The first County Convention (August)
- The first Continental Congress (September)
- Crown Resistance Day (October)

Speakers

Bob gave an update on the progress in planning for speakers. Although the overall 250th budget is unknown, the Speakers Committee hopes to engage a speaker every other month or so. For local speakers, Anne will give a talk on Acton buildings at the time of the Revolution (March 2024), Elise Lemire will be asked about giving a talk on the role of Black residents, Mary Fuhrer will be approached for a talk, and Mary Price Maddox will be asked to speak about the “bridge” to the US Constitution. Amy Cole has offered to lead a cemetery tour.

Tentative speakers proposed for this year included Bob Allison in September and Katherine Grandjean in November.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m. Next meeting: May 24, 3:00 p.m.: to focus on further planning for 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Forbes