

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

June 22, 2023

Meeting minutes

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

The meeting was called to order by chair Pamela Lynn at 12:10 p.m. in the Acton Memorial Library conference room.

Minutes of the June 8 meeting were reviewed, and unanimously approved as written.

Committee matters. Pam confirmed that both Sue Peterman and Mary Price Maddox have resigned from the History subcommittee. She then asked if we might ask Mary Price to rejoin, since in spite of her busy teaching schedule, she may be willing to contribute her historical knowledge to the work we are planning. All present were in favor of this, as well as of asking some non-committee members, such as Larry Kerpelman and Amy Cole, to help out.

Strategies to date

Pam handed out a draft list of some strategies and activities that have been discussed. (Attached). She has discussed them with the Library Director, who has expressed interest in incorporating some new ideas into the present library museum display. It was pointed out, however, that the existing exhibit, which includes both a Civil War display and a Revolutionary War section, is already an excellent one. Bill noted that it was funded by the town Community Preservation Fund—a source that we might consider again for any upcoming 250th exhibits. The library will also be working on an ongoing program of community engagement.

Other potential ideas for the draft list of activities included concerts, perhaps of colonial music, or the music of Acton musicians.

Action Unlimited articles, which top the list of strategies, will require considerable work and coordination. Bob is working on a running Excel chart and schedule of the planned articles. It's our understanding that Sue Peterman will still be the liaison with the paper for these, at least for the time being. In discussion, it was agreed that our committee should develop the ground rules for submitting the drafts to us before we pass them on to the newspaper, and in preparation, that we should prepare a couple of sample articles in July, keeping the 300-word limit in mind. It was agreed that, if possible, the 250th logo should appear as an "initial" on all the articles. We might also consider eventually collecting the articles into a pamphlet of some sort.

Pam offered to start by drafting the first article, which will be an introduction to the series and also include the results of the logo contest. Future article topics, and their target publication dates, were then discussed, and the following tentative sequence for 1773/2023 was agreed upon—to begin in late August 2023, with a goal of publishing two articles a month:

1. **250th logo and introduction** (Pam)
2. " " " " (repeat)
3. **Acton in 1773** (Bill and Anne)
4. **Acton's Native Americans** (Bob)
5. **"Pine Hawk"** (Bob)
6. **Acton's Revolutionary taverns** (Anne)
7. **The Tea tax** (Pam)

Some other topic ideas raised for future articles included Pre-Revolutionary travel, and 18th-century timekeeping.

A related question was raised about a reprint of a very old article about the 250th Committee formation that appeared in the 6/16/23 *Action Unlimited*. We will try to investigate its origin.

Update of timeline and programming

Library programs. Pam confirmed that the September selection for the library Book Club will be Bill McKibben's thoughts on why we celebrate long-ago events, *The Flag, the Cross, and the Station Wagon*. The November book will be Stacy Schiff's *The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams*. Pam pointed out that the library is required to keep 40% DEI in mind in its public programs.

Speakers update

Bob reported the following progress since the last meeting:

- Early September 2023: He and Pam will meet with Bob Allison
- Bob has met with Mary Fuhrer, who will give a presentation on Crown Resistance Day in the fall of 2024. She has offered to do more, as well—perhaps including a talk or article on local farms and land pressures in the 18th century
- Bob plans to talk to Bob Gross about giving a presentation in February 2024
- Katherine Grandjean will be asked to address a topic on Native Americans
- Bob proposed asking Amy Cole to organize a program of tours, possibly in coordination with the library.

Payments to the speakers and the source of potential funding were briefly discussed. While we have no specific direction from the main committee on a budget, it is understood that there is some money available. The question of seeking contributions from business sponsors or the public has been raised, and Pam suggested that we set up a model for memorial contributions.

File sharing

Bob is continuing to update what are now two Excel charts—one for Acton 250 activities, and the other tracking the *Action Unlimited* articles. He will put them into Docushare, where the meeting minutes and other committee material will also be available.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Next meeting: July 6, 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Forbes