

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

July 6, 2023
Meeting minutes

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

The meeting was called to order by chair Pamela Lynn at 10:00 a.m. in the Acton Memorial Library conference room.

Minutes of the June 22 meeting were reviewed, and unanimously approved with one amendment.

Summer meeting schedule

Acton 250th meetings: July 27-History subcommittee, 1:00 p.m.
July 31-Acton 250th committee
August 9-History subcommittee, 10:00
August 28-Acton 250th committee

Confirmed 250th events

The first of the public events takes place *today*, July 6, with Minuteman Gary Entwistle, speaking at the Senior Center.

Other confirmed events in 2023 so far are:

9/19: Bill McKibben—AML book group discussion
9/21: Bob Allison—1st 250th speaker; Room 204, Town Hall—on events of 1773(?)
10/5: Doug Halley—speaking on the history of Pine Hawk
11/21: Stacey Schiff—AML book group discussion on *The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams*.

It was agreed that our publicity should list all related events scheduled by outside groups, as well, such as:

Iron Work Farm's "4th Sunday" open houses at Jones Tavern and the Faulkner Homestead—
--through October (except for August)

Acton Historical Society open houses at the Hosmer House—1st Sundays through October

As a first action, by the end of July we should confirm and revisit a **reading list**, to be made available to the public. In conjunction with that, it was suggested that we write some guidelines for determining the accuracy of what we are reading. Mention might be made of any problems from the writings of early historians, such as Lemuel Shattuck, Reuben Law Reed, etc.

Action Unlimited articles.

Pam suggested that for the first, introductory article, we request a full page of *AU* to lay out the plans and the background of the articles to follow.

Bob distributed a draft of instructions for writers, and invited feedback on it from the committee.

Bill suggested that we highlight Henry Scarlett's chest of materials (in possession of the library) for either a program or an article.

Bob mentioned that this year's Pine Hawk highlighted book for October will be Dan Boudillion's recent *History of the Nashobah Praying Indians*. He is also exploring the possibility of some joint Pine Hawk and Acton 250th events.

Anne has offered to add an *AU* article on "Two Teenagers on April 19" (about Francis Faulkner, Jr. and John Robbins) to her list.

Events and programming

Bob and Pam are planning to meet soon with speaker Bob Allison to review the draft announcement for his 9/21 presentation on the Boston Tea Party and the affairs of 1773.

The topic for the 10/5 program with Doug Halley will be either Pine Hawk or the Native connection in general. It was recommended that we look at the middle section of Ned Blackhawk's *Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of US History*. (Also covered in an MHS online program).

Adding an emphasis on women in the Revolution and/or 1770s to the events or articles (or both) was briefly discussed. Pam suggested checking out Tewksbury's online link to women in the Revolution, and the work of Diane Paskovitz Ross. Bob mentioned that Mary Beth Norton's work on women of the period is also relevant to the topic. This might also tie in with a program focusing on the food of the times.

Bob distributed the following updated plans, and asked the committee to send him their feedback:

1. Draft instructions for writing *Action Unlimited* articles
2. Draft publication schedule of the articles
3. Scheduled speakers and events
4. Overall schedule of activities (categorized)

Other ideas: outreach

Pam introduced some ideas for soliciting support from the public for the 250th programs and activities:

1. Contributions. Could we set up a mechanism for honorary or memorial contributions? For instance, people might be invited to make a contribution in honor or memory of someone who has been involved in furthering Acton's history. Examples such as Pat Herdeg of the Historical Society were mentioned. Or the committee itself might designate a lecture, for instance, in honor of a specific person.
2. ABRHS alumni involvement. In preparation for discussion at the next meeting, committee members will think about linking a 250th package of materials to particular reunion classes. With the class of 1973's 50th reunion coming up this fall, the time seems particularly advantageous for this. Such a package might include activities like local tours. Inviting a class to establish a program of its members' oral histories was another idea raised.
3. Bob asked if a library staff person could be involved in setting up such a program and organizing the material.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Next meeting: July 27.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Forbes