

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

August 9, 2023

Meeting minutes

Attending: Bob Ferrara, Anne Forbes, Bill Klauer, Pamela Lynn Guest: Sharon Gruet

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

Pam introduced Sharon Gruet. Sharon is an Acton resident who is currently working in association with Lafayette College on some programs to reawaken a focus on the 1824-26 visit and tour by the Marquis de Lafayette, who played such an important role in the Revolution.

Minutes of the July 27 meeting were reviewed, and unanimously approved with minor revisions.

Upcoming meeting schedule

August 9: 250th Committee 7:00 p.m.

August 31: History subcommittee, 10:00 a.m.

September 13: History subcommittee 10.00 a.m.

Events planning updates:

Bob and Pam met with Bob Allison at Suffolk University. Allison's talk is scheduled for September 21. For future speakers, they discussed the possibility of asking Lisa Brooks, a Native Abenaki who teaches at Amherst College, to speak about her book *Our Beloved Kin*. Bob A. also recommended that we approach William Fowler, who teaches at Northeastern University.

Bob Allison is Chair of the **Revolution 250 podcasts**, which we should all be watching when we can: <https://www.revolution250.org>

Conferences with Amy Cole and Mary Fuhrer are planned; Pam will check on questions regarding quorums and locations of these conferences if they include multiple committee members. Other proposed and recommended speakers mentioned in discussion included Jonathan Lane, historian Bob Gross, and Jim Hollister, lead interpreter at Minute Man National Park. Jim has been especially recommended to lead a bus trip.

Preparation for Acton 250 Committee meeting, August 9, 7 p.m.

For the meeting of the full 250th Committee scheduled for tonight, Pam plans to give a report of the subcommittee's progress, including the first of the articles that are planned. She will also invite committee members to write upcoming articles and volunteer for other history-related tasks and events. It was suggested that we ask to synchronize the activities of the full committee and the history committee a bit more. One question to raise is whether the larger committee might meet more often. Bob sent handouts for them on our progress with speakers, articles, etc.

The use of the various versions of the approved **logo** for particular purposes is also a question which we plan to raise.

Action Unlimited articles

Pam distributed a revised version of the introductory article based on our discussion at the last meeting, and asked the subcommittee to look it over once more before tonight's meeting. It is now 375 words, which we hope will satisfy the editor's requirements. Anne will send the final to the paper, and also distribute it to other outlets.

Events: further discussion on three confirmed speakers

Bob F. will give an update to the 250th Committee on our planned activities, including the preparation of **Bob Allison**'s talk, confirmed for September 21. He will point out to the committee that handouts should be prepared and distributed for all the programs, and will raise the question of 250th publicity overall. Other questions to cover with the committee include whether a ZOOM connection will be possible for the lectures, and whether there should be preregistration for the presentations. That led to the question of what town staff support will be available, especially since the main venues will be Town Hall and the library.

Bob will also see if Bob A. will write a brief article for us, and plans to discuss topics with **Mary Fuhrer**, and see if she will be willing to give two talks, and also perhaps write an *AU* article. We hope that she will focus on farming in at least one of her lectures; it was also suggested that she base a talk or an article on the documents and verbiage of the times.

Bob next plans to meet again with **Amy Cole**, who has offered to give a walking tour. Acton center has been mentioned as the focus, but it was agreed that other possibilities should be discussed with her as well, given the lack of standing resources remaining at the town center from the Revolutionary period.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. Next meeting: August 31.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes