

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

October 20, 2023
Meeting minutes

Attending: Bob Ferrara, Anne Forbes, Bill Klauer, Pamela Lynn Absent: Mary Price Maddox
Also attending: Amy Cole

The meeting was called to order by chair Pamela Lynn at 10:05 a.m. in the Acton Library conference room.

Approval of the minutes.

Minutes of the September 27 meeting were reviewed, and unanimously approved with some additions. On the advice of the Town Clerk, since a quorum of this committee attended the walking tour on October 12, Pam drafted brief minutes for that, which were unanimously approved as written

Upcoming Acton 250th meeting and event schedule:

October 30, 7 p.m.: Acton 250th Committee meeting, Town Hall
November 10, 10 a.m.: Acton 250th History Subcommittee meeting—Faulkner Homestead, 5 High Street
November 13: Mary Fuhrer--lecture on life in Acton 1773-75
November 30, 10 a.m.: Acton 250th History Subcommittee meeting

Updates and reports

Pam reported that the Library has granted permission for the 250th Committee to use the image of their painting of the Brooks Tavern in our literature.

Pam reported on visiting two current exhibits, which were discussed, and some follow-up recommended:

She showed a packet of "**Boston Harbor Tea**", produced by Mark T. Wendell Tea Co. of Acton, and presently being sold at the Mass. Historical Society's exhibit on the Boston Tea Party. Their price is \$2.75 a packet, (\$33/dozen). All agreed to recommend this to the Acton 250 Merchandising Committee as an item we might sell.

Pam also reported on the Concord Museum's current exhibit "Interwoven: Women's Lives Written in Thread". Some pre-Revolution samplers are included, which sparked some questions. For instance, it would be good to know how much the production of pre-Revolutionary samplers might be related to policies on non-importation. The committee examined a 2018 scavenger hunt booklet produced for the museum by Barbara O'Neill Tibbets, published by The Look Book, Acton. Since the idea of a scavenger hunt related to Acton's 250th has been discussed, it was agreed that we might talk to the author about creating something similar for us—again, along with our 250th Merchandising Committee.

Bob reminded us that we had also discussed producing some sort of Acton history quiz relating to the 250th, probably to be scheduled toward the end of our period of activity. A related question was raised by Bill about the silver service from the first Acton meetinghouse, and whether it ever came back to the town from the Museum of Fine Arts.

Review of recent events

Bob Allison's talk, September 21, cont.:

Pam showed some notes sent to Bob by some of the students who attended the lecture. The question of whether the 250th Committee has sent a thank-you to him was raised. The committee had agreed to send him one of the Town's collection of commemorative coins. We will check on that at the next committee meeting.

Recap of 10/12 tour of Acton Center with Amy Cole

This was an invitational tour for people involved in the Acton 250th effort. The eighteen attendees had been asked to share their responses. All comments received were very positive, and some will be helpful in our future planning.

In discussion, it was agreed that any future public tours should be kept below two hours in length, and relevant historic maps should be available. For a public tour this winter, it was suggested/agreed that Amy might lead one of a smaller area of the town center. The afternoon of Sunday, December 10 was set as a tentative date; a rain/snow date should be scheduled, as well. The committee offered to provide more background information for the tour, such as the origin of the Isaac Davis plow in Town Hall. (According to Bill, the plow was given to Acton in 1950 by members of the Davis family in Concord).

Next Acton 250 events

November 13: Mary Fuhrer talk on Acton in 1773-1775. Pam is planning to introduce Mary, and will make an announcement about upcoming Acton 250th efforts and attractions. For the Q & A at the end, Bob will monitor the online chat and distribute the microphone for questions from the in-person attendees. Pam will assist Mary in identifying questions, etc.

Upcoming related programs

- November 2: Concord Museum talk--"Black Girls and their Needlework."
- November 8: " " " on "The Odyssey of Phyllis Wheatley"
- November 21: Stacy Schiff's book on Samuel Adams, *The Revolutionary* will be the AML book group topic; it will also be discussed on Nov. 28 by the League of Women Voters.
- December 9: AML hosts Rick Hamelin, potter, on "Patriots and Potters"
- December 16: "The Boston Tea Party: Steeped in Secrecy"—virtual program from Tewksbury.

Action Unlimited articles

There was a brief discussion and update on the three kinds of articles that *Action Unlimited* has agreed to publish: (1) historical articles, (2) reports on Acton 250th activities, and (3) upcoming event announcements. Under #1, it was noted that Mary Fuhrer will not be writing an article; Bill and Anne are still working on one about Acton in the 1770s, and Pam is planning one about Samuel Adams, to be published early in November. Under #2, Pam is writing a report on the 10/12 walking tour. Bob will organize the event announcements, and as agreed with the 250th Committee will send them to Steve Trimble for review, and to Sue Peterman for publishing. Anne will maintain and update the Excel list of articles.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m. Next meeting: November 10, 10 a.m. at the Faulkner Homestead, 5 High Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes