

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

February 27, 2025 meeting

MINUTES, amended

Attending: Bob Ferrara, Anne Forbes, Pamela Lynn. Absent: Bill Klauer, Mary Price Maddox.
Also attending: Jeffrey Wilde

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

Approval of past minutes

The minutes of the February 14 subcommittee meeting were unanimously approved as amended.

Feb. 26th “Snapshot into Acton’s Early Black Residents”: review. This volunteer program went well except for technical problems in showing the slides. Thanks were expressed to Bob (and to Steve Trimble) for figuring out that both the computer and the screen had to be set to ZOOM. Steve will see to it that the instruction panel will be returned to the wall of the room. Last week’s dry run with the presenters was extremely helpful in avoiding other difficulties. It was noted that in this case the publicity could have been better—more flyers need to be posted around town, for instance.

March 6--Meredith Bergmann, sculptor: “A Sculptor Speaks for Her Statues”: planning. It was agreed to invite her to a dinner meeting before the talk.

250th Scavenger hunt and S. Acton walking tours update.

The Iron Work Farm plans to continue the scheduling of opening the Faulkner House for both the scavenger hunt and the South Acton walking tours on the same day for the next two that are scheduled—March 22 and April 5. It was suggested that we continue the pattern of coordinating future walking tours with museum open house hours in the same manner.

Other upcoming events. Next on the schedule will be the second Dirigible Brewing Co. Davis Brown Ale release party, on March 13. More info. will be given at the committee meeting tonight.

The Council on Aging March 25th event is now a Yankee Pot Roast dinner. The Acton Minute Men are scheduled to participate.

John L. Bell will speak on March 31, on Revolutionary spies and intelligence.

In a discussion on possible future presentation topics, it was suggested that we might ask John Bell to give a talk on 18th-century health and disease. Asking Joseph Adelman to speak on taverns and the post office as vehicles for spreading news and discussing plans was another idea.

April 2025 and future scheduling update.

The location of the town-wide 250th celebration on April 16 is now up in the air; more info. on this will be discussed at tonight’s committee meeting. Bob asked that we keep in mind a summer 1776 celebration at the Discovery Museum that is in the early planning stages.

Acton Exchange. Bob has begun adding our events to the *Exchange* online calendar and will continue to follow through on this. He will also find out if they have assigned a reporter to 250th events. Anne will check back with them about their plans to publish our articles.

Revisit evolving Legacy List and post-April 19th planning.

Bob has started a draft list of possible legacy items. (Attached). Pam shared similar lists from the Concord Museum as another example.

In discussion, it was suggested that the list might include recommended book lists for both kids and adults, and museums to visit. As for post-April 19 speakers, Pam suggested we might schedule a presentation, perhaps every April, for a few years to revisit part of the April 19th story. Possible speakers or presenters might include Joel Mackall (who could give tours), Joel Bohy, and Amy Cole. It would also be good to keep our partnerships going, including those with the Historical Society, Iron Work Farm, Pine Hawk, the AB schools, and the Library. Building up an endowment fund was another idea, as it could pay for speakers' fees. Bob Allison might be someone to consult with on this type of follow-up.

Upcoming 250th meeting and event schedule

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| March | 6: Meredith Bergmann lecture: "A Sculptor Speaks for her Statues" |
| " | 13: Isaac Davis Brown Ale: Second big release party. Dirigible Brewing Co. |
| " | 14: 10:30: 250 th subcommittee meeting |
| " | 22: Amy Cole: South Acton walking tour |
| " | 25: Council on Aging dinner event |
| " | 31: John Bell lecture: "Spies and Military Intelligence" |
| April | 5: Amy Cole: South Acton walking tour |
| " | 16?: 250 th local celebration |
| " | 17: Visit by Willard/Davis family reunion |
| " | 18: Acton Minutemen: North Bridge march and "Robbins Ride" |

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Next meeting: March 14.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes