

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee March 14, 2025 meeting MINUTES

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

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

Approval of past minutes

The minutes of the February 27 subcommittee meeting were unanimously approved as amended.

MARCH EVENTS: discussion

March 6--Meredith Bergmann: “A Sculptor Speaks for Her Statues”: review. This talk had a very positive response. While the students were mostly absent, about 40 people attended in person, and 80+ have watched the video. It was noted that the author’s book selling procedure still needs to be clarified. In related news, Bill mentioned that a sculpture of Carroll Spinney is apparently being planned.

March 13—Isaac Davis Pale Ale: second release event at Dirigible Brewery. This also went well, and was well attended. The cannon that was on hand was a hit with the attendees. Pam suggested that it might make a good regular (yearly?) event, perhaps preceding Patriots’ Day or Crown Resistance Day.

250th Scavenger hunt and South Acton walking tours update. The Historical Society welcomed some 5th grade scavengers to the Hosmer House on February 16; two more openings are scheduled for them at the Iron Work Farm’s Faulkner Homestead, on March 22 and April 5.

Amy Cole’s next two South Acton Walking Tours are scheduled for those same dates, an arrangement that worked well last time. Bob, who is maintaining the registration list, announced that there is now a waiting list for the March tour and the April 5 tour is also filling up fast. Pam suggested that we consider offering more tours in the future, as part of our “legacy list” activities. It was suggested that we continue the pattern of coordinating future walking tours with museum open house hours.

March 25--Council on Aging dinner. Steve announced that 65 people have signed up for this. The Acton Minute Men will be on hand, and the Dirigible Davis Pale Ale will be on sale.

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

APRIL EVENTS update and planning

April 16: 250th celebration. Steve gave a progress report on the planning for this town-wide party, which has now been confirmed for the Discovery Museum. Roche Bros. has agreed to be a sponsor; Cathy Pagano is working on a flyer of events that will highlight this. The agenda is still in the works, but the Minute Men have agreed to give a slide show, merchandise will be for sale, and there will be display tables for 250th partner organizations. There will probably be a scavenger hunt recognition early in the evening. The expense (discounted) will be \$1600.

Publicity and outreach for the 4/16 event and others during the 250th anniversary week was briefly discussed. Steve said it would be helpful to gather some relevant photos to include in the promotional material; Pam suggested that some of the teen volunteers be asked to help in distributing flyers and

signs, etc. She also asked if we might reach out to the VCC to build up more volunteers, soliciting people interested in working with town history, etc. Highlighting local resources at the 4/16 celebration and other events might also be helpful for the future.

Soliciting more business sponsorships was also discussed. And Amy Cole offered to help with informing the library employees and other town staff.

In a related discussion, Pam asked if we might reach out to other groups and institutions both to help publicize our Acton programs and to promote them at our events as resources for the public. An example was the Leventhal map center at the Boston Public Library.

Acton Exchange. Bob reported that the *Exchange* has assigned a regular reporter, Greg Jarboe, to cover the Acton 250th events.

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

In focusing more on a post-April 19th continuation of activities, etc. a concept of “Beyond the Bridge” was discussed. Ideas raised included an initial schedule of having quarterly speakers, to be reduced perhaps to once a year as time goes on. Holding two Dirigible Brewery events a year, possibly in the fall and early spring, was also suggested. As for local resources, Steve recommended highlighting the buildings of the Iron Work Farm and Historical Society, and Pam suggested using the library display space more, including the exterior bulletin board. Steve also raised the idea of having a photo gallery and other expanded features on the Acton250 website. Another suggestion was to do a special program or other emphasis on Acton’s churches, perhaps a fall event about their history. Finding other outlets for 250th merchandizing, such as local fairs, was another idea.

Upcoming 250th meeting and event schedule

It was agreed to continue subcommittee meetings about every two weeks for the foreseeable future.

March	22: Amy Cole: South Acton walking tour
“	25: Council on Aging dinner event
“	28: 250 th history subcommittee meeting
“	31: John L. Bell lecture: “Spies and Military Intelligence”
April	3: 250 th committee meeting
“	5: Amy Cole: South Acton walking tour
“	16: 250 th local celebration, Discovery Museum
“	17: Visit by Willard/Davis family reunion
“	18: Acton Minutemen: North Bridge march and “Robbins Ride”
“	28: 250 th committee meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Next meeting: March 28.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes