

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

May 30, 2025 meeting
MINUTES

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 10:05 a.m. in the Acton Memorial Library.

Pam reminded the committee about Minute Man Joseph Reed, whose farm occupied part of the present-day Acton Arboretum at the time of the Revolutionary War.

Approval of past minutes

The minutes of the May 8 subcommittee meeting were unanimously approved as amended.

Review of May 29 250th committee meeting

Much of the 5/29 committee meeting consisted of a discussion of tentative future plans, now that the 250th anniversary of April 19th has passed. Along with developing an understanding of the historical events that followed April 19 and its immediate aftermath, etc., the committee has begun to focus on future events, funding, and what we will be leaving behind.

As for our subcommittee, it was agreed that we may need to take on new roles, such as contributing to the fundraising tasks. This is likely to include pursuing grant funding for future programs, emphasizing the need for donations, etc. It may be necessary to revisit the position of the Lions Club, for instance, which has been the sole organization to provide funding thus far. In addition, Bob suggested that we keep considering our role in connection with the local schools.

As for volunteers, Pam reiterated the need for new and younger volunteers who can carry the committee and its purpose into the future.

For continuity of some successful projects in a future form, Pam noted that continuing the history scavenger hunt organized by Scout Aaryan Arora might be something the history subcommittee could take on in the future in reduced form—perhaps with a smaller map, and maybe redesigned as a project limited to Acton. Another idea was to make use of street banners for major future events.

“Beyond the Bridge”—planning for speakers, tours, etc.

Bob distributed a draft list of planned events so far. He has arranged for a talk on June 23 by Don Hagist on the British soldiers and the siege of Boston in 1775-76. He has also been in contact with Bob Allison about a possible talk in September, and anticipates that Joel Bohy should be available in late fall or early winter. J.L. Bell is also still under consideration for a talk

“Legacy List”

Bob distributed a running list of 24 items and ideas that have been raised for what might be preserved as the committee’s legacy, along with who might be responsible for providing or maintaining them.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Next subcommittee meetings: June 27, July 18, and August 8—all tentatively 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes, Clerk