

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

November 7, 2025 meeting

MINUTES

Attending: Bob Ferrara, Anne Forbes, Pamela Lynn. Absent: Mary Price Maddox.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pamela Lynn at 10:07 a.m. in the Acton Memorial Library.

Approval of past minutes

The minutes of the October 24 subcommittee meeting were unanimously accepted as revised.

Publicity

It was agreed that Acton 250th and related news—cancellations, events such as the upcoming Concord Museum exhibit, etc.--needs to be disseminated more and updated more promptly. For instance, Bill Fowler has canceled his Nov. 10 scheduled talk due to illness, but it's still on the town website. Pam will monitor Room 204 that night in case anyone shows up. Bill has decided not to reschedule.

Progress on planning upcoming speakers and programs.

Alex Cain has agreed to speak in January, but the date is still to be confirmed. He will emphasize the conditions in Boston in 1775-1776. J.L. Bell, scheduled to speak on February 26, is expected to emphasize the military situation at that time. Pam has spoken to Ted Clark, and will stay in touch with him. Another suggestion raised for a future speaker is Doris Kearns Goodwin. And Pam is pursuing Emily Sneff for a talk on June 25.

More “Beyond the Bridge” planning: parties, open houses, etc.

Bob reported that a July 1 date for the Discovery Museum party has been confirmed. The hours will be 5-9:30 pm; the 250th Committee budget will probably be about \$2500. The museum has requested that a small working committee oversee the event, and that the timeline be adhered to closely. Our program should be kept under 20 minutes; Bob is exploring whether we can do two shows. They have agreed that a horse would be welcome; Anne will contact Georgia Barry about bringing “Lacey” again this year. Karen Kerns is in charge for the museum.

The exact date for the April party at Dirigible Brewery has still not been set.

Steve Trimble is leading the planning of Acton's “Declaring Independence” performance for the 250th Committee and Freedom's Way. It will probably take place June 14 at the Acton Congregational Church.

Acton History Alliance progress. A CPA application to fund the establishment of an Alliance website is underway. The next Alliance meeting is 11/14 at the Faulkner House. One of the eligible non-profit members (Historical Society, Iron Work Farm, or Friends of Pine Hawk) will be responsible for handling the finances.

Related events and opportunities.

Pam reported that the AML book group is currently discussing Scott Liell's *46 Pages* and Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*. She is also sending reminders to various groups about the six-part Ken Burns special on The American Revolution, which begins on Nov. 16.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes, Clerk

NEXT MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Ken Burns' six-night The American Revolution broadcast begins Nov. 16

Next 250th history subcommittee meetings: Dec. 4: 10:30 a.m.
 Dec. 19: 9:30 a.m.

Next 250th Committee meeting: Dec. 8, 7 p.m.

2026

250th History subcommittee meeting: Jan. 25(?)

Acton 250th committee meetings: Jan. 5: 7 p.m.
 Feb. 23: 7 p.m.
 March 23: 7 p.m.

2026 events:

Jan. 16, 9:30 a.m.: Acton History Alliance meeting
Jan. 28: Alex Cain talk
Feb. 26: J.L. Bell talk
April 17(?): Dirigible party
June 25 (tentative): Emily Sneff talk
June 14: "Declaring Independence" (with Freedom's Way) performance
July 1, 5-9:30 p.m.: Discovery Museum 250th party