

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

April 6, 2023

Meeting minutes

Attending: Bob Ferrara, Anne Forbes, Pamela Lynn, Alissa Nicol

Absent: Mary Price Maddox, Sue Peterman

The meeting was called to order by chair Pamela Lynn at 4:05 p.m. in the Acton Memorial Library conference room.

Procedural matters. Maintaining a quorum was again discussed. It's the understanding that in committee matters, Anne, as an associate member, has the right to vote. Pam will ask the Town Clerk about whether we can invite a guest from the main 250th committee to participate at one of our meetings to share their expertise.

The charge to the Acton 250th Committee, which underwent some minor revisions before the committee began its meetings in January, was briefly reviewed. The charge under which we are operating is the one dated 8/22/22. Among the changes that were made prior to that were the addition of a phrase about addressing our work to all residents of Acton, and the deletion of references to the Civil War.

Minutes of the March 30 meeting were reviewed, and on a motion by Bob (seconded by Alissa), approved unanimously as revised. To file the approved committee minutes with the town, it's our understanding that they should be emailed to the Town Clerk, who will make them publicly available through the town website.

Current publicity and timeline of upcoming events (Goal #3).

An email received just today from the Friends of Minuteman Park regarding Patriots' Day 2023 was recommended as a good example of an effective format for publishing a timeline of events. It was noted that some events have already been posted in the "Municipal Monthly." For those, submittals should be emailed to Dean Charter.

In library news, Pam announced that "Stories Connect us" is now the Memorial Library's theme for upcoming events and displays. Rob Carter, AML Children's Librarian, is about to begin working on some local "stories" pertaining to April 19.

History resources. Pam distributed a list of eleven suggested online "Revolutionary Resources" that provide some of the historical background on the war. The Freedom's Way site was also recommended. Pam will send the link to the Gilder Lehrman talks, and recommended that we all sign up for them. Permission should be asked of the Historical Society and Iron Work Farm to use material from the 2005 Patriots' Day program, "Small Town Acton, 1775: Birthplace of Heroes".

Planning timeline: speakers. Pam distributed some suggestions for month-by-month programs, with the idea that months in 2023 could be matched with the same months in 1773. This might include relevant speakers, such as Joseph Adelman, to speak in 2024 about newspapers in 1774.

History Subcommittee goals and responsibilities

Pam suggested that we might consider adding an additional goal to the list below:

7. Consider appropriate steps to inventory and preserve original Acton documents.

She explained that this came out of a conversation with Susan Paju, who did so much over the years with the original town documents in the AML collection. It was agreed that our subcommittee will place an emphasis on original documents in our work.

Thus, the goals and tasks adopted at the last meeting were amended as follows:

1. Gather and investigate **historical questions** regarding April 19, particularly pertaining to Acton
2. Develop a **historical timeline** relevant to the events of April 19, 1775
3. Develop a **present-day timeline of planned events** related to Patriots' Day, beginning with 2023 events and activities by stakeholders and other local and regional groups
4. Oversee the Acton 250th Committee's **publicity** for #3
5. Oversee the Acton 250th Committee's **speakers program**
6. Develop a list of recommended **publications** relevant to the history of April 19
7. Consider appropriate steps to inventory and preserve Acton's original documents.

Other updates since the last meeting:

Speakers: It was agreed to aim for a tentative line-up of speakers as soon as possible.

Resources: Anne has distributed more pages from AHS's 1974 *Acton: A Brief History*, through the colonial and Revolutionary years..

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m. NEXT MEETING: 4/13, time to be determined

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Forbes