

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

February 9, 2024 Meeting minutes

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

The meeting was called to order by chair Pamela Lynn at 10:45 in the Acton Memorial Library second-floor conference room.

Approval of past minutes.

Minutes of the January 26 meeting were accepted as amended.

Confirmed upcoming schedule

Acton 250th meetings and events:

February 23: 10:30 a.m.: Acton 250th History Subcommittee meeting

February 26: 7:30 p.m.: Acton 250th Committee meeting

March 8: 10:30 a.m.: Acton 250th History Subcommittee meeting

April 2: 7:00: John L. Bell: lecture

Updates and reports; review of recent events, articles and meetings, etc.

1/29: Acton 250th Committee meeting: The merchandising subcommittee reported about the plans to order T-shirts, hats, etc. for sale. It was agreed that we should develop a “kit” of items for the entry tables at the 250th events. This could include the sale items, and other things to promote such as the speakers’ books, more clearly organized information from partner organizations such as the Acton Historical Society and Iron Work Farm, etc. Anne will work on some signs for the entry table, gather some display books, etc. She will also make some stand-up signs asking for donations, etc.

Bob noted that some of the payments to the speakers have been slow. In particular, Amy Cole still hasn’t been paid for her last tour.

1/30: Joseph Adelman talk: “A Revolution in the News”.

All agreed that this was another excellent program, in spite of the minimal number of images that were displayed. The Q&A portion went well, but Bob suggested that for future programs committee members might be prepared with some questions to ask in case the audience is slow to participate. There were a few technical glitches with the slide display. Bob will work with Acton IT and Steve Trimble on this. Bob will also obtain some of the photos that were taken at the event, to be used in our publicity. A separate table was set up for Joe to sell copies of his book. He handled the sales; the procedure went smoothly.

In regional reports: Pam has been invited by the Concord 250th Committee to sit in on their meetings.

Upcoming events and meetings

It was agreed that we need to emphasize the difference between the colonial militia companies and Minutemen in our future material.

The Hive, 2/17-18: Both Pam and Bob are planning to go to the yearly gathering of The Hive, and hope to come back with some recommendations for speakers, etc.

Black History Month plans: Both the library and League of Women voters will have programs in February about Phyllis Wheatley. Both Pam and Anne suggested that we keep Acton's main patriot of color John Oliver on our radar for a highlight, probably for February 2025.

Concord Museum: Pam reported that the museum has two relevant exhibits coming up. One, "Whose Revolution?" will focus on local Loyalists. It was agreed that we would include material about the museum's exhibits on our entry table.

Freedom's Way is eager to promote 250th-relevant walks and tours. It was suggested that we should keep them in mind for our publicity.

2024/1774 continued planning

April 2: John L. Bell lecture. John Bell has been engaged as the next 240th speaker. The committee spoke to him by phone, and asked him for promotional material and a title for his talk. He will send us a draft write-up. We have also invited him to bring copies of his book, *The Road to Concord*, to sell.

Bob raised the idea of holding at least one local house tour. He suggested the Nathaniel Edwards House at 238 Pope Road, which has been thoroughly researched by its owners. It was agreed to discuss this, and other possible tours, at a future meeting. Taverns, in particular, were mentioned, and it was suggested that they would be an appropriate focus of an *Action Unlimited* article, at least. Bill suggested we look at Brewster Conant's program on Acton's taverns for the Historical Society.

Future talks: Anne reported on her recent conversation and correspondence with Bob Gross, who has proposed giving a talk in Sept-Oct. this year that compares the lead-up to the Revolution in both Acton and Concord, drawing on *Minutemen and their World* and the changing social contexts. In discussion, it was suggested that we ask him about speaking in late October instead, as Mary Fuhrer has agreed to give a talk in late September. Bob F. is still searching for someone who might give a talk on Native Americans in November 2024.

Action Unlimited articles: Anne suggested we try to schedule one about the Patriots' Day holiday this spring, as the state holiday was established in 1894.

Other activities. There was a continued discussion on the idea of a quiz of some sort, and what the format should be. For instance, could it be done in teams? Would the questions be posted somewhere, such as at or through the Library?

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15. Next meeting: February 23, 10:30 a.m. at the library.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes