

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

April 5, 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 10:40 in the Acton Memorial Library second-floor conference room.

Approval of past minutes.

Minutes of the March 22 meeting were approved as amended, and the minutes of the short April 2 meeting at Not Your Average Joe's were also approved as amended. Questions were asked as to whether minutes of the latter, which was a dinner gathering with that night's speaker, were necessary. Pam reported that she checked with the Town Clerk, however, who instructed that minutes were required for that type of social gathering if it involved a quorum of the committee, and that it should be posted as a committee meeting.

Confirmed upcoming schedule

Acton 250th meetings and events:

April 6 and 12: Acton center walks with Amy Cole

April 29: Acton 250th Committee meeting

May 3: 10:30 a.m.: Acton 250th History Subcommittee meeting

May 17: 10:30 a.m.: " " " " "

May 22: Acton 250th Committee meeting

May 29: 7:00: Bob Allison lecture

Review of March 25 Acton 250th Committee meeting and prep. for the next

Pam announced she may miss the next scheduled meeting of the full committee on April 29. The topic of how to treat our dinner meetings with the speakers will probably come up, as the posting of the one on 4/2 confused some committee members as well as members of the public. It was suggested that we might invite a representative from the 250th Committee to attend a future dinner meeting as our guest.

Review of the Memorial Library's March focus on Phillis Wheatley

There was much interest in this. Pam suggested we think about excerpting some sections of David Hackett Fischer's recent book and others for use in the future.

Review of 4th 250th speaker event: John L Bell, April 2

This attracted our largest audience so far. The speaker was pleased with the response, and has offered to return for another lecture. It was agreed that the images he included were especially effective. Pam noted that we might try to coordinate a second John Bell talk around one by Joel Bohy, and that Bell's knowledge of arms would make a good emphasis. A date close to 4/19/25, perhaps in March to follow a winter talk by Bohy, was suggested. On Bob's suggestion, it was agreed we might ask the Minute Men to co-sponsor the event. In a related question, Bill asked whether the Scottish Rite Museum in Lexington is presenting any 250th programs.

There were some problems with the Room 204 arrangement this time. The table that had formerly stood near the room entrance had been moved away, apparently to hold the new 250th merchandise. That meant that the general "partners" informational material was tucked on a smaller table at the back of the room, and the students' sign-in sheets were moved to some chairs. It was agreed that we would ask to have a table returned to the entry area for the next lecture. Bob offered to draw a proposed room layout to

present to the next main committee meeting. Pam proposed that we might add a greeter in the vestibule area to hand out some of the promotional material. As for the items on the information table, the available handouts were snapped up by those who visited the table, and it was agreed that we should ask other 250th "partners" including the library, the Minute Men, and Friends of Pine Hawk to be sure to provide copies of their literature next time.

Preparations for April tours

Bob reported that the 4/6 and 4/12 tours are both fully subscribed, and that all preparations are set to go.

April 19, 1774-related events this year

Publicized events in the general Acton area were briefly reviewed. Pam asked whether we might try to have the town include the 4/15 walk to the North Bridge, at least, on the electronic roadside signs. Bob volunteered to ask about it. Pam plans to hand out IWF and AHS brochures at the beginning of the walk at the Isaac Davis House site on Patriots' Day.

Upcoming schedule of events and programs, etc.

Planning was firmed up for the upcoming "mini-series" of Revolutionary era open houses, loosely referred to for now as "Still there: homes of our patriots." The current plans include May 26 open houses at the Iron Work Farm's Faulkner House and Jones Tavern on their regular "4th Sunday" open date in May, open house at the Historical Society's Hosmer House on June 10, and a slide talk by David Hardt on the Nathaniel Edwards House on July 7. It was agreed that we should make a flyer to distribute about this. Anne will send publicity about the series to the Publicity Committee.

There was a brief discussion on what promotion is needed for historical events in the coming year. It was agreed to produce a supply of handouts that would include our partners' events as well as our own, to be posted on bulletin boards around town.

Bob asked the committee to send in additions and corrections to his growing chart of events. The library, with Acton 250, has scheduled a talk by Joel MacCall on the "Hidden History of Black Boston" on 11/8/24. Bob reported that Malcolm Purinton has agreed to speak on the history of beer. It's been suggested for September '24, to coincide with the production of an Acton 250th beer (under the merchandising committee). Pam advised that students not be invited to this one, and that it be held early in the month.

Eagle Scout/scavenger hunt. Pam reported that Mary Price has said that the Scout in charge is on track for this.

Acton history quiz. Planning for a town-wide quiz is in the early stages. It was agreed that an organizing conference is needed, probably involving members of both the history subcommittee and the 250th committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00. Next meeting: May 3, 10:30 a.m. at the library.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes