

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

October 11, 2024 meeting minutes

Attending: Bob Ferrara, Anne Forbes, Bill Klauer, Pamela Lynn

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pamela Lynn at 10:40 a.m. in the Acton Memorial Library.

Approval of past minutes

By unanimous vote, the minutes of the September 13 meeting were approved as revised.

Updated schedule of Acton 250th and related events:

2024 October 11, 2:00: Amy Cole: walking tour of Acton Center
“ 23, 7:00: Bob Gross: talk on Acton & Concord's Roads to Revolution
“ 25: History Subcommittee meeting
“ 28, Acton 250th Committee meeting
“ 29: Pine Hawk Book Group/AML: Wm. Cronon's *Changes in the Land*

November
“ 6: Joel Mackall, (AML) Hidden History of Black Boston
“ 8: History Subcommittee meeting
“ 9: Amy Cole: walking tour of South Acton
“ 12: Malcolm Purinton (AML): talk on Taverns & the Revolution
“ 22: History Subcommittee meeting

December 5: Daniel Mandell: talk on Native Americans in NE & the Revolution

2025 January 29: Joel Bohy: talk on the vestiges of war
March 6: sculptor Meredith Bergman

REVIEW OF RECENT PROGRAMS and EVENTS

“Colonial Books & Brews”.

This local launch of the Isaac Davis Brown Ale at the library on Oct. 1 was attended by about 200 people. The various demonstrations were well received, and the Library is considering hosting another similar gathering.

Mary Fuhrer: talk on “Crown Resistance Day”, Town Hall, Sept. 25

This excellent, well-attended talk was marred by some serious technical problems stemming from some incompatible files and computers, and also problems with the town website. Things have been corrected for the ActonTV production on YouTube, however, The talks' content contained a few factual errors regarding the Jones family. In discussion, the committee decided to leave them as is, and to address any questions that may be raised by audience members as they come up. A related idea was to prepare some more information on the circumstances of Acton's Crown Resistance Day.

NEXT EVENTS and PROGRAMS

Bob Gross talk, 10/23, Town Hall: “Acton's (and Concord's) Roads to Revolution”

Bob F. will miss this, but has made all the arrangements. We will give the speaker a set of shot glasses, and will arrange dinner beforehand.

The speaker will not be showing slides, but we will display the usual “welcome” slides, etc.

History scavenger hunt/Eagle Scout project

Scout Aaryan Arora launched this 6-month project with the AB Schools fifth grades on 10/7 with a visit to all the classes by the Acton Minutemen. We will also introduce Aaryan and the project at the talk on the 23rd. Aaryan has created a map of the eight area sites to be visited, and is working with the Historical Society and Iron Work Farm on several dates when their buildings will be accessible to the “scavengers.” The map has some minor errors regarding Acton items, but they will be dealt with at the particular sites.

Future talks, articles, tours, etc.

Articles. Anne has submitted Larry Kerpelman's two articles to the *Action Unlimited* twice, but they have not been published. She will follow up with them and with the Publicity Committee. We will try to have Pam's piece on colonial taverns published before Malcolm Purinton's 11/12 talk.

Tours. Amy Cole's 11/9 tour of South Acton center is nearly fully subscribed. Rain date is 11/10. The tour will start and end at the Faulkner House. Anne is working out the logistics of parking, etc. with the Iron Work Farm.

Talks. Pam and Anne will update the “kit” of handouts and display items to bring to the next talks and indoor events.

11/6: Joel Mackall's “Hidden History of Black Boston” is a library event.

11/12: Malcolm Purinton, speaking on colonial taverns, is also a library event, but we will give him a set of shot glasses.

12/5: Daniel Mandell will speak on Native Americans and the Revolution in southern New England. (This is a Pine Hawk event, but he would like to meet some of us for lunch sometime before his talk).

1/29/25: Joel Bohy, speaking on “Dreadful Were the Vestiges of War.”

3/6/25: Sculptor Meredith Bergman. She will be offered a \$400 honorarium, the same as the other speakers. We will also plan on a gift of shot glasses.

April: a date for John Bell to speak again still needs to be confirmed—probably for the beginning of April, or the very end of March.

A **February Black History Month** program, probably with joint presenters, still needs to be worked out. Before the next committee meeting Anne and Bill will discuss ideas for this, including highlighting local Actonians, the Oliver family, local Patriots of Color, etc., with AHS and other researchers.

April: The 250th Committee has begun planning for the April, 2025 celebrations involving regional groups and events. One new consideration will be a Willard and Davis family reunion that will bring people to the local area for several days from 4/14 to 4/21.

After April 19: The committee discussed how we might follow through with what came after the start of the war for Acton and the people who were involved. Anne will forward the 4/22 letter of instructions from Col. Francis Faulkner to Capt. Joseph Robbins to the committee, for instance. More research will be needed in the planning.

It was also agreed that we need to keep the emphasis on Acton, and on what to leave behind from this 250th year. One idea was to pursue what's in storage at the library and see about displaying it. Wanda Null, Susan Paju, and Ellen Clark might be good people to consult about this.

To attract a broader audience, it was also suggested that we place more emphasis on the young people who were involved, such as the teenaged Francis Barker, John Robbins, and Francis Faulkner, Jr.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m. Next meeting: Friday, October 25, 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes