

ACTON 250TH COMMITTEE

History Subcommittee

June 27, 2025 meeting
MINUTES

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pamela Lynn at 10:15 a.m. in the Acton Memorial Library.

Approval of past minutes

The minutes of the May 30 subcommittee meeting were unanimously approved as written.

Review of June 23 speaker event: Don Hagist, on British soldiers of April 19

The event went smoothly, and was attended by nearly 50 people, even without the usual number of AB students, since the school year was over. Don announced his book sales in his final slide; all books were priced at \$20 (cash only).

Publicity for this and for future events was briefly discussed, and it was suggested that some way should be found to ask attendees how they found out about an event.

“Beyond the Bridge”—planning for upcoming speakers, tours, etc.

Bob distributed an updated draft list of planned events so far. Four tours have been confirmed with Amy Cole for the fall, and a talk by Bob Allison on Sept. 30. Pam reminded the committee to keep the chronology of 1775-76 events in mind, such as the organization of the Army in the summer of 1775, the publication of *Common Sense* the next winter, etc.

As for other speakers, it was agreed to talk to Joel Bohy about giving a talk around the time of the Nov. 16th release of the Ken Burns film on the Revolution, as Joel was closely involved with that production. And we still need to consider Evacuation Day, Don Hagist’s offer to do a talk on women of the times, etc.; also asking John Bell to do another talk, maybe in January or February.

“Legacy List”

Bob distributed an updated running list of suggested items and ideas that have been raised for what might be preserved as the committee’s legacy, along with what organization or institution might be responsible for providing or maintaining them. The following categories were suggested: Events, Activities, Displays (and lists), and a general Organizational category with the subheadings of Consortium Celebrations, and Committee matters.

“Consortium” concept. The evolving concept of assembling a consortium of organizations going forward was briefly revisited, and Pam asked the committee for their thoughts and concerns, especially in light of an upcoming meeting called by Denise LeBlanc of the Friends of Pine Hawk to discuss it. Among the concerns expressed were the potential lack of leadership and funding. Future publication of 250th materials is also something to be worked out, as there is some worry that outside groups might want to publish or publicize some 250th materials. It was agreed to develop a master schedule of planned activities, which should help to avoid a conflict of dates among the partners.

Bob suggested that a logo for the consortium could be developed and a simple card produced with all the participating organizations. Also, since the town budget for the 250th committee will be discontinued at some point, investigating grant funding is likely to be necessary. Freedom’s Way and MCC/ABCC may be the best sources for program funding. Anne will investigate their usual application deadlines.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Next subcommittee meetings: July 18 and August 8—tentatively 10:00 a.m.

Other meetings and events:

July 23 or 24: visit with Bob Allison to discuss future plans

August 11: 250th Committee meeting

Sept. 30: Bob Allison, first fall talk

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Forbes, Clerk