

DRAFT Minutes
Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission
February 16, 2024
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Members present: Jim Brangan
Cathy Delneo
Paul Deslandes
Tom Hughes
Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup
John Krueger
Jim Lockridge
Susan Evans McClure
Heather Pelham
Steve Perkins
Izzy Provonchai
Laura V. Trieschmann

Members Absent: Melody Machin (resigning)
Jonah Spivak

Guests: Katherine Ingram, Marketing Committee
Maureen McCracken, Marketing Committee
Meredith Breiland, PlaceCreative
Erin Gilmer, PlaceCreative
Steve Crafts, PlaceCreative

Meeting was not recorded
Ms. Trieschmann opened the meeting at 10:30 am

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Changes to the Agenda
No changes to the agenda

III. Public Comment
No public comment

IV. Review and Approve [September 29, 2023 Minutes](#)
Minutes approved
Steve Perkins made a motion; John Krueger seconded

V. Logo Review by PlaceCreative
PlaceCreative, contracted by the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing on behalf of the Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission,

presented and introduction of the logo process. Public input was sought through two public meetings and a survey with 112 participants. The team presented findings such as colors to avoid and the preference for multiple images versus a single image or icon. Comments are to be forwarded to Ms. McCracken and Ms. Trieschmann within two weeks to allow for the final design production. The three proposed designs will be shared with the Marketing Committee.

VI. Outreach Presentation

Ms. Evans McClure reminded the commission the outreach presentation, as determined at prior commission meetings, is to be for in-person presentations/meetings and on the website. This is a broad overview of America's and Vermont's founding story. Mr. Hughes voiced concern the presentation makes no mention of the Green Mountain Boys; it makes no mention of any person or group. Additional videos can be compiled by members of the commission for use in other ways, such as focusing on the story of the Green Mountain Boys, Ann Story, Ethan Allen, and the Vermont years since the American Revolution. The commission thanked the Research and Historical Outreach Committee, especially Ms. Evans McClure, Angie Grove, and Matt Keagle.

VII. Committee Updates

- Admin/Financial
 1. 250th Commission Administrator Position Update
 1. Contracted position with one proposal. Jim Lockridge and Jim Brangan will join Laura Trieschmann for a review of the proposal and interview.
 2. Contract should be signed in March.
 2. Transfer of \$25,000 grant from Sunshine Lady Humanities Program to Vermont Historical Society for Planning Grant Program
 1. Funding awarded to 5 communities for planning grants through the Vermont Historical Society with support from Vermont Covered. The second deadline was February 2, with additional proposals under review. The third and likely final deadline will be March 1 for the 55 eligible communities.
 3. Funding Requests for State Fiscal Years 26-27
 1. Funding request for next fiscal year should be submitted by each committee for projects, grants, and programs by June to enable review and submittal to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development
 2. 250th Commemoration Summit proposed, like the Civil War Summit. Paul Deslandes and Jim Branagan will coordinate.
 4. Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership Grants
 1. Proposals are being reviewed with \$9,000 available for interpretive grants in Vermont.

- **Research/Historical Committee**
 1. Working on Events Criteria for endorsement by the commission
 2. Recommending language to inventive Vermonters in coordination with Vermont Historical Society.
 3. Coordinating list of new Roadside Historic Site Markers
 1. Laura Trieschmann will provide drafts produced by interns in 2022 that need review/editing.
- **Marketing & Public Outreach**
 1. Website Status
 1. Website is still under production by Laura Trieschmann. Some committees have provided drafts for posting. Still seeking images with photograph/designer name and release for use.
 2. Town Resolution Update
 1. 25 towns have signed 250th Resolutions. The new administrative coordinator shall be charged with contacting the remaining communities with reminders and engagement, and tool kits for all.
- **School/Teacher Outreach**
 1. Continue to target influencers.
 2. 250th-related books for students will be in coordination with Department of State Libraries in the form of audio books, e-books, and real books for lending. Of the 2 books on our list, 44 are identified as available; 27 are already at the library. Agency of Education is exploring means of procuring additional funds for school libraries to purchase books.
 3. Governor's Institute of Vermont Proposal
 1. Recommend this proposal be tabled due to cost and commissioner capacity, and alternatives be explored.
- **Arts and Cultural Heritage Organization**
 1. Request to replace "Semiquincentennial" with "250th" recommended.

VIII. Vermont Historical Society Event Planning for 250th

Steve Perkins presented the major activities and initiatives of the Vermont Historical Society related to the 250th.

1. Research and Exhibit Gallery of 2,000 square feet with 250th themes presented.
2. Vermont History Explorer, curriculum resources and clearing house for other resources.
3. Program to link local historical societies with local schools statewide (pending funding).
4. Vermont History Day April 26
 - a. Students will be part of National History Day for 2025-2026
 - b. Young People's Continental Congress 2025-2026
5. Publishing Program for 2024

- a. Ira Allen Biography
- b. Drafting of Vermont Constitution 2027
- c. Vermont History Journal, seeking 250th themes
6. Mini Grant Program
7. League of Local Historical Societies and Museums conference and roundtable
 - a. Workshops May 10, White River Junction

IX. New Business

- State House Music Residency
 1. Jim Lockridge announced the musician residency at the Vermont State House to write songs inspired by the state motto, ‘Freedom & Unity;’ an exhibit of songs, photos, and narratives about their exploration of the state’s democracy in the contexts of its past, present and future.
- 2024 meeting schedule for Commission
 1. Meetings will now be every other month.
- Recruitment for Membership
 1. Several committees are still looking for active members.
 2. Commissioner Melody Manchin has resigned and the VCNAA is recommending a replacement for the Governor to consider. We are so grateful to Melody for her participation and insight.

X. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 12:06 pm.