



DRAFT Minutes
Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission
April 19, 2024
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Members present: Jim Brangan
 Tom Hughes
 Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup
 John Krueger
 Jim Lockridge
 Susan Evans McClure
 Heather Pelham
 Steve Perkins
 Izzy Provonchai
 Jonah Spivak
 Martin Mahoney
 Laura V. Trieschmann

Members Absent: Cathy Delneo
 Paul Deslandes

Meeting was not recorded
Ms. Trieschmann opened the meeting at 10:33 am

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Changes to the Agenda

- With members needing to leave, some items were discussed in different order

III. Public Comment

- No public comment

IV. Review and Approve Minutes

a. February 16, 2024

1. John Krueger made a motion to accept the minutes; James Lockridge seconded the motion.
2. Consensus all in favor. Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup abstained.



Motion Passed

- b. March 27, 2024 special meeting
 - 1. Stephen Perkins made a motion to accept the minutes; Susan McClure seconded the motion.
 - 2. Consensus all in favor. Jonah Spivak, John Krueger, Jim Brangan, and Izzy Provonchai abstained.

Motion Passed

V. Committee Updates

a. Admin/Financial

- 1. Jim Brangan reported the Lake Champlain Basin Program, the managing entity for the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership, is in the final stages of awarding 15 grants in Vermont and New York with a focus on the Revolutionary War. The current grant amount is \$249,500.
- 2. Jim Brangan reported that 8 communities have been awarded Vermont 250th Community Planning Grants, presented in partnership with the Vermont Historical Society. The first phase, funded by Vermont Covered, targeted those communities with limited connectivity to Wi-Fi. The next phases are open to all communities. Deadlines are May 15 and July 15 (depending on availability of funding).
 - i. Awarded grants are going to Fairfield Historical Society, Jamaica Historical Foundation, Morgan Historical Society, Town of Pomfret, Tunbridge Historical Society, Whiting Library in Chester, Woodstock History Center, and Worcester.
 - ii. Notice of the grants is being sent to all communities that have passed 250th Resolutions.
- 3. 250th Commission Administrator Position Status Update
 - i. Laura Trieschmann reported the position is on hold pending review by the Attorney General's office because of the scope of work and funding amount. There is no timeline on how long this will take or if it will happen.
- 4. Funding status was reported by Laura Trieschmann:
 - i. 2021 allocation of \$25,000 has \$16,507.30.
 - ii. 2023 allocation of \$117,000 has \$92,000.00.
 - iii. The teacher training in partnership with the Vermont Archaeological Society has been canceled; the Education and Teacher Committee has requested the \$12,000



encumbered for that project remain available as the committee explores other ideas.

5. Laura Trieschmann reminded all commissioners that their organizations are free (and encouraged) to secure grant funding for projects and planning. That funding cannot be accepted or subgranted in the name of the Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission without the approval of the Executive Committee.
6. Reminder Funding Requests for State Fiscal Years 26-27
 - i. Laura Trieschmann notified commissioners that the committees should be presenting funding requests that will be vetted by the Financial/Admin Committee and approved by the Executive Committee for presentation to the administration as part of the fiscal year 25 budget. All requests must include a detailed budget, defined partners who are aware and support, and an outline of the project.

b. Marketing & Public Outreach

1. Website Status
 - i. Website design is still pending.
2. Logo System and Use Protocol
 - i. Martin Mahoney reported the guidelines for how to use the Logo are in production by the contractor and will be shared once completed. Versions of the Logo have been produced in vertical and horizons, color, black-and-white, greyscale, and as an icon.
 - ii. The Marketing Committee is discussing what items to produce at the expense of the 250th Anniversary Commission and those to be made available at a print-on-demand website.
 - iii. Please send swag ideas to Martin
 - iv. Stickers are being ordered as a giveaway by the Commission.
3. Town Resolution Outreach
 - i. Presently 25 towns and villages have passed resolutions joining the 250th commemoration. A campaign to reach the remaining communities will commence in spring 2024.
4. List of events (2025-2027)
 - i. A list of events (attached) has been prepared and will be posted on the website. This is a draft and additional information will be added.



5. A proposal to pursue 250th Vermont License Plates was made. Heather Pelham noted that traditionally license plates are not economically lucrative, and this administration is not supportive.

c. Research/Historical Committee

1. Susan McClure reported the committee is forming ideas for research projects that will require funding. A list of 16 potential markers was provided to the Division for Historic Preservation.
2. Outreach Presentation
 - i. The presentation will be updated now that the logo has been approved. An ask was made if anyone wanted or knew of others to record. It was suggested to coordinate with the Department of Libraries as they have audio recording equipment.
3. Event Endorsement Submittal Guidelines
 - i. Requests for event endorsement are posted on the webpage.
 - ii. Approvals will be administrative, and any issues will be referred to the Research and Historical Committee.
4. League of Local Historical Societies and Museums annual conference is May 10 in White River Junction. Members of the commission and the Vermont Historical Society will be presenting on the 250th anniversary.
5. The committee is exploring a virtual outreach to historians that would team up with libraries, humanities, arts council, and state. The outreach meeting would provide a background on the 250th anniversary and generate ideas of what historians can do.

d. School/Teacher Outreach

1. The committee will be presenting at the Vermont Library Association Conference (May 20, 2024)
<https://vermontlibraries.org/conference>
2. The Department of Libraries has checked the availability of the books on the 250th Commission's booklist. These materials would be a shared resource for all Vermonters and would be made available through the Interlibrary Loan program. Forty-four of the books on the list of 72 titles are currently available through the two major book jobbers that serve libraries (Baker & Taylor and Ingram). The State Library currently owns one copy of 27 of the books on the list. We are still looking at the availability of these titles in eBook and eAudiobook format. It is estimated that \$7,500 would be needed to support the sharing of titles on the list with libraries around the state in both print and electronic



format, enabling the purchase of 2 print copies and an eBook or eAudiobook copy of each available book on the list.

3. A type of Governors Institute of Vermont program for 2027 is being considered.
4. Homeschool connections for 250th resources are being explored and a packet of resources shall be on the website.
5. The committee is connecting with curriculum directors, with general teacher primer for elementary school teachers to be prepared.
 - i. Stephen Perkins reminded that the Vermont Historical Society is preparing teacher tools that will be available on the Vermont History Explorer website.

e. Arts and Cultural Heritage Organization

1. Chair James Lockridge will be having one-on-one meetings with members to outline a path forward for this committee.

VI. Launch Strategy and Summit Ideas

Discussion focused on webinars, seminars, and outreach to launch the 250th anniversary officially. Statewide annual events have been identified that commission and committee members can join to promote the 250th (like Tourism Summit, LLHSM, and History Day). How do we promote or request a keynote or focus for 2025 to 2027 as the Revolutionary War period. Encouraging in person and virtual events. List of those events to target should be compiled.

VII. Report on A Common Cause to All Conference, Williamsburg, VA

<https://va250.org/a-common-cause-to-all-2024/>

1. Jonah Spivak presented notes (see attached) from the conference in Williamsburg. Links have been provided and all are encouraged to watch the keynotes and breakout sessions.

VIII. New Business

- a. 2024 meeting schedule for Commission
 1. June 21
 2. July 26
 3. October 18
 4. December 20

The Commission requested that Executive Committee determine an in-person location for the June 21 meeting. It should include a virtual option.

- b. Recruitment for Committee Members



IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 am.

List of Revolutionary War-era Events in Vermont for 2025-2027

List is incomplete; April 8, 2024

Th., Mar. 13, 2025	Westminster Massacre	Westminster Massacre
May 2 – 4, 2025	Capture of Fort Ticonderoga and Crown Point – 3-day event in Bennington county. Friday focus in Bennington on educational and students; Sat. and Sun. focus on re-enactors, bike/walk/run the route to Castleton, in Arlington/Shafsbury and in Manchester/Dorset, respectively.	
May 8-11, 2025	Capture, by patriot Green Mtn. Boys, of three British strong points across the border in NY: Skenesborough (Whitehall) [Maj. Herrick] on 5/9, Ticonderoga [Col. Allen] on 5/10, Crown Point [Capt. Warner] on 5/11.	
Jan. 16, 2026	VT Provincial Convention meets in Dorset (no towns east of mountains attending).	
May 30, 2026	Ann Story cabin site re-dedication and public celebration in west Salisbury	
July 24, 2026	VT Provincial Convention meets in Dorset . Print, Photographic - Color photo of Historic Marker for Dorset's Kent Tavern Dorset Historical Society (pastperfectonline.com)	
Sept. 25 – 28, 2026	VT Provincial Convention meets in Dorset .	
Oct. 30, 2026	VT Provincial Convention meets in Westminster .	
Jan. 15, 2027	Convention in Westminster , declared VT a new entity, named “New Connecticut.”	
June 4, 2027	VT Provincial Convention meets in Windsor . And adopted the name “Vermont.”	
Tu., July 6, 2027	British and German chase the Americans evacuating Mount Independence and Ti.	
Wed., July 7, 2027	Battle of Hubbardton; encampment in east Hubbardton July 10-11 weekend	
July 2 – 8, 2027	Windsor Convention and accepted Vermont constitution on July 8 (Thurs. In 2027).	
Aug. 13 – 15, 2027	Battle of Bennington weekend	
Mon., Aug. 16, 2027	Battle of Bennington state holiday	



Virginia A Common Cause Report March 18-20, 2024

Link to Presentations: <https://va250.org/a-common-cause-to-all-2024-program/>

Keynote Remarks

Justice John Charles Thomas, Supreme Court of Virginia (retired)
[Watch Video](#) – Inspirational 250th speaker

Closing Keynote

Jeffrey Rosen, President, National Constitution Center
[Watch Video](#) –Declaration of Independence and “pursuit of happiness”

Research Report: Approaches to Public Engagement

Matt Williams, Managing Partner, Chief Growth Officer, Brand Federation
[Watch Video](#)

Breakout Sessions

Reaching Teachers and Students in Schools | [Watch Video](#)
Providing Impactful Digital and Virtual Content | [Watch Video](#)
2026 National Planning | [Watch Video](#)
Public History in Polarized Times | [Watch Video](#)
Funding Your 250th | [Watch Video](#)

Fireside Chat: Reaching Diverse and Underserved Communities

Moderator: Christy Coleman, Executive Director, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation
Noelle Trent, President & CEO, Museum of African American History
Ashley Jordan, President & CEO, African American Museum in Philadelphia
Marvin-Alonzo Greer, Lead Historical Interpretation & Community Engagement Officer, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
[Watch Video](#)

Ideas for National Collaboration

- Great American Cleanup (Keep American Beautiful)
- Two if by Sea



- Birth of the Army – June 14, 2025
- Tree Planting
- National History Day (Vermont History Day) – 250th themes for '25 and '26
- American Picnic on July 4, 2026

Additional Ideas and Thoughts

- Historical Society engagement - Museum of the American Revolution exhibits
- Reading of Declaration of Independence by Kids w/discussion points at end
- History must be accurate – always evolving and expanding
- Challenge native born Americans to take the Naturalization test (see resources below) perhaps encourage people to take the Oath.
- Avoid “Narrative” (remember last year was avoid “interpretation”?) Narrative is associated with distortion – watch for co-opted political terms.
- Avoid unnecessary drama – people assume topic must be boring. Focus on facts and interesting stories.
- Avoid presumptuous language – don’t tell me what I can or can’t understand. Give space to learn and take their own time.
- Use Libraries – has respect and is a trusted source.
- What about a survey of STUDENTS?
- Think of the Revolutionary War as an idea not an event – it’s about the principles of freedom

Quotes

Ordinary People in Extraordinary Times

Not all differences of opinions are differences of Principles

Jefferson was not the only hypocrite

Reflective Patriotism... is the “juice” worth the “squeeze” ?

The United States was born a question. We need to be able to ask!

Nation vs. Union... the Union makes us strong

You can’t judge patriotism, everyone has the right for all to express in their own way.

Resources:

- TheHistoryList.com – free national database of History Events and exhibits
- Take the Naturalization Test - <https://americanhistory.si.edu/citizenship/test>
- Naturalization Oath and Explanation - <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/n-400-topic-exercises/The-Oath-Of-Allegiance.pdf>
- History.org – virtual field trips and visual tools, digital resources
- Declarationmovie.com – free teacher training (I’ve not checked it out)

Fundraising:



Fundraising General Rules (from “A Common Cause”) :

1. Need to align your “ask” with your funders. What do they give to? Do your research.
2. Demonstrate impact. How many people reached/affected?
3. Build relationships. If no connection, unlikely to fund. “People give to people... Friendraising” Send your best person on your team with a talent to connect.
4. Be careful to NOT politicize. Know when to STOP talking! Our only job is to share history, not say what to do with it. Be careful what you say. “The good thing about silence is you don’t have to take it back.”

- AASLH funding list for states
- NPS Grant Program
- American Battlefield Protection Program
- A250 Donor Program