



**DRAFT Minutes**  
**Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission**  
**June 21, 2024**  
**10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
**Microsoft Teams meeting**

Members present: Tom Hughes  
John Krueger  
Heather Pelham  
Steve Perkins  
Izzy Provoncha  
Jonah Spivak  
Martin Mahoney  
Laura V. Trieschmann  
Paul Deslandes

Members Absent: Cathy Delneo  
Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup  
Jim Brangan  
Susan Evans McClure  
Jim Lockridge (resigning)

Staff: Lindsay Pacheco, Administrative Coordinator  
Megan Albert, Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> Administrative and Event Coordinator

Meeting was not recorded  
Ms. Trieschmann opened the meeting at 10:32 am

- I. Welcome and Introductions**  
New 250<sup>th</sup> Administrator Megan Albert was introduced.
- II. Changes to the Agenda**  
No changes made to agenda.
- III. Public Comment**  
No public comment
- IV. Review and Approve Minutes [April 19, 2024](#)**  
Minutes approved  
John Krueger made a motion; all in favor.



**V. Introduction of Megan Albert, Northeast Historic Preservation Consulting**

Laura Trieschmann introduced Megan Albert, who provided her background. First thing assigned to Megan will be to attend Washington DC 250<sup>th</sup> Conference from July 9-11. She will also be researching grant and funding opportunities to include on 250<sup>th</sup> website that she will be creating.

**VI. Progress Updates**

a. Commission Membership Changes

1. James Lockridge resigned from 250<sup>th</sup> this week. Since he was 15<sup>th</sup> person on Commission and we only need 14, Ms. Trieschmann will leave it to governor's office as to whether this needs to be filled.
2. Commission will need new chair for Arts and Cultural Heritage Committee. Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup was vice chair, will check in when he is back from vacation to see if he's interested.
3. VCNA has nominated their Executive Director Breanna Sheehan as their representative for the 250<sup>th</sup> Commission.

b. 250<sup>th</sup> Community Planning Grants

1. Steve Perkins provided update: up to 25 grants awarded, which leaves another 25 available. Hoping to expand granting through this existing funding source. Next deadline is mid-July. Please encourage any groups in your area to apply. Of 25 that are being funded, 8 are listed on website, remaining to be added after funding approval is complete. Applicants are from various groups and areas of Vermont, hoping this will inspire even more applicants throughout the state.

c. FY26/27 Planning

1. Laura Trieschmann needs to know if there are any other asks for FY26/27 so she can present this to Finance and Admin committee at next meeting on July 12.
2. Jonah Spivak thinks we should ask for 250,000 in final ask. This will be the final funding leading up to the actual 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
3. John Krueger agreed, though current ask is over 500k. In April, Lake Champlain steering committee met and gave out 200k in awards for revolutionary war projects in NY and VT. Actual funding has been delayed, but recipients will be hearing from someone soon.

d. Press Events

1. Laura Trieschmann is meeting with NBC5 in person for an interview today. She has been mentioning 250<sup>th</sup> during interviews promoting state historic sites opening as well.



2. Jonah Spivak had outreach from producer at Yankee Magazine to shoot footage in Bennington this August of the Bennington Monument and the liberty pole raising. Video will be going on newengland.com.
  3. Heather Pelham commented that the Communications office has been working with Yankee Magazine on state profiles and events. Yankee spent all last Thursday at Calvin Coolidge site.
  4. Steve Perkins shared that the Research and Exhibition Gallery exhibit will open on October 3, with Senator Sanders in attendance.
  5. Bennington applied for T-term grant to promote 250<sup>th</sup>, deadline close on Monday. Grant is for transformational marketing projects.
- e. Stickers and Magnets with 250<sup>th</sup> Logo
1. Laura Trieschmann has been distributing stickers to members but will be sending stickers out to everyone who would like them.
  2. Big E and historic sites don't want stickers, so the Executive Committee has approved purchase of magnets.
- f. Books to State Library
1. Now that legislative session is over, Megan and Laura will connect with State Librarian. If there are any new books out there that should be added to the list, please let Megan/Laura know. Library will be ordering about 50 books, they already had 25 of them. Once this is done, they will do big press release to promote books – they will be available to public for rent at library.
- g. Endorsements and Calendar
1. Endorsement application is up on webpage, has been getting requests and reviewing those. Megan will start updating the calendars. We will start seeing the 250<sup>th</sup> logo pop up on announcements/posters.
- h. Town Resolutions (26 to date)
1. 26 towns that have passed resolutions so far. Most of these are very small towns! Larger ones have not all stepped up. Megan and Laura will be working on refresher announcement to all the communities that have not done this, and reconnect with the 26 that did so they know it's still in progress. Goal is to get all 252! Towns will be listed on website as well.
- i. Conference Attendance (July and September)
1. Megan will be at America 250<sup>th</sup> in July on behalf of Vermont. In September, Pennsylvania is doing a partner conference for America 250<sup>th</sup>, Christopher will be attending for us.
- j. What else to celebrate?
1. Make page on website that has "What's Happening" in 250<sup>th</sup>.



## **VII. Committee Updates**

- a. Admin/Financial
  1. Previously discussed with Lake Champlain and planning grants.
  2. This committee will be reviewing funding requests for next fiscal year at their next meeting July 12.
- b. Marketing & Public Outreach
  1. Meetings were cut back to once a month, nothing to report.
  2. Stickers have been produced and are available!
  3. Laura mentioned ordering magnets and will do so soon.
- c. Research/Historical Committee
  1. Paul Deslandes shared that committee has been discussing their financial request. Use of presentation that was developed for library conference, there's a plan for one of committee members to do a presentation to interested parties from local historical societies and other organizations. Plan is to have gathering together of interest groups to talk about what the commission does, share information, facilitate these interest groups meeting and discussion of activities they are planning for future. Goal is to foster information sharing.
- d. School/Teacher Outreach
  1. Attended library conference in May. Time slot was quite late, so didn't get as many people as they would have liked. Jonah helped organize getting teachers to attend a Fort Ticonderoga professional development training. Also created connection with VTCLA director, who will add 250<sup>th</sup> to his weekly newsletter. Working on commemorative card deck that promotes 250<sup>th</sup> person, place, or thing.
- e. Arts and Cultural Heritage Organization
  1. Nothing to present from committee, have been quite inactive this spring.
- f. Jonah Spivak brought idea to Commission for potential event to commemorate Lexington and Concord (one by land, two by sea) day of service, every state house will have two lights in their windows to commemorate capture of Fort Ticonderoga. Will have lights on 4/18 and service day on 4/19. Second idea is to do something for Flag Day 2025, which will be the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of creation of continental army. Can reach out to local police, VFW. Can scale this up to state house and down to individual homes.
- g. Laura mentioned that there was previous discussion of securing the sergeant-at-arms for the events. Will follow up about this.



### **VIII. New Business**

- a. Reminder Funding Requests for State Fiscal Years 26-27 by July 12 \*\*
- b. 2024 meeting schedule for Commission
  1. July 26
  2. October 18
  3. December 20
- c. Recruitment for Committee Members
  1. Still seeking recruitment for committee members. They need to be approved by commission, will need resumes for review.
- d. John Krueger shared that the New York state 250<sup>th</sup> commission met for the first time last month. Feels positive about how far we have come as a state, Commission has already put so much work into planning.
  1. Tom Hughes inquired about New Hampshire and what their 250<sup>th</sup> commission status is. Jonah replied that NH Historical Society has been active, started participation in regional collaborations. Sons of NH also participating, planning March to Bennington.

### **IX. Adjourn**

Laura adjourned meeting at 11:31am.