

DRAFT Minutes
Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission
Executive Committee Meeting
July 16, 2024
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Microsoft Teams meeting

Members Present: Laura V. Trieschmann
 Izzy Provoncha
 John Krueger
 Jim Brangan
 Susan Evans McClure
 Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup (joined 1:58pm)

Members Absent: Martin Mahoney

Microsoft Teams meeting
Meeting was recorded.
Ms. Trieschmann opened the meeting at 1:34pm.

- I. Welcome and Introductions**
No announcements.
- II. Public Comment**
No public comment
- III. Committee Reporting**
 - a. School and Teacher Outreach**
 - Several committee members met last Monday at Fort Ticonderoga for an in person meeting. Caught up on progress with VTCLA directors and worked on establishing curriculum for teachers.
 - b. Research and Historical**
 - Susan has not rerecorded video, will reach out to Noel about adding audio and including logo. Committee wants to move ahead with webinars to share information with people about 250th. Hoping to work with Megan and host 4 webinars in September around followings themes: arts & culture, educators, higher education, and municipalities. Would work with other committees on sharing more information with public for each specific webinar.
 - Laura received permission to set up social media for 250th, so the webinars can be advertised on Facebook, Twitter, etc. Website is being created right now, and Laura hopes that it will be live by end of August.
 - c. Marketing and Public Outreach**
 - No updates from committee at this time.
 - d. Arts and Cultural Heritage**
 - Currently there is no chair for this committee. Laura is hoping to get Christopher as Chair.

- Committee met at end of May, went through draft funding request that was submitted to Laura. Waiting to hear back about funding status. Meeting this week was cancelled since Jim resigned, so committee will resume meetings in August.

e. Finance and Admin

- Jim Brangan shared that they received \$50k from the Sunshine Lady Foundation.
- Total of 25 planning grants have been submitted thus far.
- Third/Fourth round of grants just closed yesterday, hoping it will be enough to hit \$50k so they can seek additional funding.
- Receiving various asks from organizations and individuals, came to conclusion that for future public funding this should be a competitive funding process. Small programs can apply for \$5k, regional programs can apply for \$10k, signature grants can get up to \$50k. Ex: Vermont Symphony Orchestra performed for bicentennial anniversary in 1991 for their signature event. Competitive funding would allow us to not have to favor one organization over another. Rather than having discreet asks, everyone would need to submit an application for grants. Many asks have been quite vague, would prefer these to be more deliberate and exact. They also need to be working together and not confusing legislation.
- Susan prompted that if we are getting private money, then we shouldn't be asking legislation for additional money – does not look good. If private money happens, who is running this grant program? Research & Historical Committee had proposed Vermont Humanities to run a grant program.
- Laura needs final number for legislative ask by August.
- Susan brought up Connecticut 250th funding, which is about investing in infrastructure for cultural organizations. They will be running a grants program specifically for cultural facilities, which is very similar to the program that we already run. This could also tie into climate change and the need to protect and improve historic structures. Invest in the future of culture in this state and make sure these organizations and historic structures can exist for another 250 years!
- Jim agreed – collections grants allow for artifact preservation, windows, HVAC units, infrastructure improvements for museums, etc. This has been wildly successful. They could give away 300k in grants every year for just this.
- Susan will inquire with CT 250th about their grant program.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:10pm.