

Minutes
Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission
Research and Historical Committee
May 13, 2024
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting Only via:
Microsoft Teams Meeting

- I. Welcome, approve minutes from previous meeting
 - a. In attendance/introductions
 - i. Committee Members:
 1. Matthew Keagle
 2. Alexi Garret
 3. Barbe Griffin
 4. Angie Grove
 5. Paul Deslandes
 6. Susan McClure
 - ii. Commissioners: Tom Hughes
 - iii. Public: Andrew Whipple, VP Isle la Motte Historical Society
 - b. Minutes approve by consensus
- II. Public comment
 - a. Andrew Whipple shared that he's here to learn more about the Commission and this Committee
- III. Webinar on 250th
 - a. Committee would like to host the presentation and a time for Q&A targeted at: historical organizations, town committees, local historical societies ("history industry" types)
 - b. Format: Angie delivers presentation, commission member answers questions about the commission
 - c. Susan had shared at April 19 full commission meeting and folks were fully in support; desire was maybe to wait until the website exists
 - d. But Committee wants to move ahead sooner!
 - e. Next steps:
 - i. Susan will ask Laura about how to get this scheduled
 - ii. Once it's scheduled, Committee members will help to spread the word (along with VHS, VT Humanities, VAC, VCN)
- IV. Next steps on potential funding requests
 - a. Proposed requests:
 - i. **250th Anniversary Research and Commemoration Grants-**
\$250,000: Vermont's 250th Anniversary Commission, in partnership

with Vermont Humanities, will fund new research and programs to commemorate America's 250th anniversary year – 2026.

1. **Research projects** will highlight new voices and stories related to the history and legacy of the American Revolution in Vermont that result in public history programs and products that fit within the 4 themes laid out by the 250th Commission (Forming Identities, Conflict and Struggle, Diversity of Experience, and Legacies). Examples of programs or products may include films, exhibits, public education programs, curricula, publications, etc.
2. **Arts and cultural commemorative and celebratory events** and programs may include art exhibitions, concerts, gallery shows, parades, summer camps, theater productions, and other opportunities to commemorate the American story. Projects may cover any period of American history, not just the Revolutionary War period.

\$230,000 will be available for direct grants in all 14 counties, with \$20,000 supporting program administration.

- ii. **Vermont Humanities Fall Festival 2026: “Vermont Now and Next”**- The 2026 Vermont Humanities Fall Festival will gather Vermonters around the theme of “Vermont Now and Next” in honor of the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War era in Vermont. Produced in collaboration with Vermont's 250th Anniversary Commission, events around the state will bring together Vermont's higher education institutions, public history sites, students, and the public focused on legacies of the Revolutionary Era in Vermont and its impact on our world today. (\$150,000 total request, \$125,000 for Festival program expenses, \$25,000 for administration)
- iii. Administrative expenses include the costs of hiring a half-time 250th Coordinator for one-year and overhead expenses for managing additional grant programs and a larger annual festival than is typical.

- b. Discussion on combining into 1 grant program- what is the right funding amount?
 - i. Propose to move to “Research and Commemoration Grants”
 1. Susan to re-write (above) into 1 grant program
- a. Final draft to Laura T. by early June for FY26 budget proposal

II. Roadside Markers

- a. Feedback from Laura and next steps on proposed roadside markers (list is in April 17 minutes)
 - i. 3 from the list are currently in production (Remember Baker, Ann Story, Hands Cove)
 - ii. 1 already exists (Ethan Allen Homestead) – potential discussion on location!

- iii. To move any of these forward we need a summary justification of the significance and to then request funds as part of the legislative ask.
 - b. Are there specific ones that this committee wants to work on?
 - i. For next time: committee to consider the list of markers and pick a few that people want to work on justifications for (Susan to send list out ahead of the next meeting)
- III. Additional requests from 250th Commission
- IV. [As time allows] Projects/Updates: Committee members share short updates on their work
- V. Confirm next meeting date: June 17 (Susan away, potentially reschedule)
 - a. Move to June 10 at 3pm