

Agenda  
Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission  
Research.and.Historical.Committee.  
June 10, 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. Chris Sabick
    - ii. Barbe Giffin
    - iii. Matt Keagle
    - iv. Susan McClure
    - v. Angie Grove
    - vi. Paul Deslandes
  - b. Minutes approved by consensus
- II. Public comment
- III. General 250<sup>th</sup> commission updates
  - a. Commission contracted with contractor to do administrative role for the commission (including publishing content on the website and reviewing event submissions)
  - b. Sen. Welch's office has hired an intern to work on 250<sup>th</sup> in Vermont
- IV. Webinar on 250<sup>th</sup>
  - 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 to will follow up with Laura T. on scheduling this and moving ahead
  - d. Discussion:
    - i. Picking date/time: 2 events mid-week daytime and evening (or 5pm-ish)
    - ii. Promotion plan: all committee members will promote to their lists; request others to promote including Vermont Humanities, VT Historical LLHS, VLCT
    - iii. See below VII for more discussion on next steps
- V. Next steps on potential funding requests

- a. Proposed requests:
  - i. 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Research and Commemoration Grants- \$250,000: Vermont's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission, in partnership with Vermont Humanities, will fund new research and programs to commemorate America's 250<sup>th</sup> 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 250<sup>th</sup> 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 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Revolutionary War era in Vermont. Produced in collaboration with Vermont's 250<sup>th</sup> 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 250<sup>th</sup> Coordinator for one-year and overhead expenses for managing additional grant programs and a larger annual festival than is typical.
- a. Both requests passed on to Laura T; waiting to hear more on next steps

## VI. Roadside Markers

- a. Discuss proposed list of historic markers, pick a few that the Committee wants to work on justifications for
  - i. Matt asked for the **format of a justification**- how long, how many words, what's the content, etc.? Once we have answer on that team can consider what we have capacity to do

- ii. Paul asked about capacity of individuals to do the research, background for roadside markers; might be opportunities for student projects
  - iii. Next steps: confirm justification format from Laura, committee members can choose if there are ones they want to pursue in their roles
- b. List Committee created in April:
- i. Fanny Allen Sr. (either grave in Burlington or site of her house in Westminster)
  - ii. Fanny Allen Jr. (hospital location)
  - iii. Ethan Allen Homestead house (site Ethan Allen died) – a version exists
  - iv. Ethan Allen Homestead site (sign for the land, including Indigenous, French, loyalist, Allen family, tenant farming stories)
  - v. Arnold's Bay
  - vi. Old Fire Station/Rutland Historical Society now
  - vii. Bardwell Hotel (now Bardwell House)
  - viii. Immaculate Heart of Mary (Rutland)
  - ix. Putney Inn
  - x. Newport (Black man mentioned in Ethan Allen Homestead archives, more research is needed on him and his story),
  - xi. Crean Brush (Loyalist lived in Westminster, Fanny Allen Sr's stepfather, set the Bounty for Seth Warner, Remember Baker, Ethan Allen- location would be site of his house Westminster, working with Westminster Historical Society)
  - xii. John Peters (appointed to Continental Congress, didn't go, became loyalist, also could include story of his wife)
  - xiii. Death of Sgt Archelaus Tupper 1781 (Orwell, but more research is needed)
  - xiv. Col. Thomas Johnson, Newbury (maybe at his house in Newbury or site at which he was abducted by the British)
  - xv. Dinah Mattis (enslaved woman and her daughter whom Ebenzer Allen presented emancipation certificate in 1777)
  - xvi. Vermont Assembly Meeting site, 1781 (Charleston, NH!)

- VII. Next steps for commission- mobilizing interest groups who are committed to exploring the 250<sup>th</sup>:
- a. Paul shared discussion that Susan, Paul, and Laura had about how to best mobilize interest groups related to the 250<sup>th</sup>
    - i. Example: Alexi Garrett is exploring how to mobilize higher ed related to 250<sup>th</sup> (and St. Mike's role in that)
  - b. Commission would facilitate those interest groups to have initial conversations about what they're planning. Might look like sharing the presentation and then informal opportunities for information sharing within

interest groups, in collaboration with other committees; with the spirit of our role is to bring people together but it's up to the groups to continue the communication together. Examples of interest groups:

- i. Higher ed
  - ii. Museums/historical societies/reenactor groups
  - iii. Local officials/town governments (maybe civic organizations like rotary too?)
  - iv. Educators (Prek-12)
  - v. Artists/cultural groups
- c. Format:
- i. Webinar:
    1. Our committee presents historical perspective (our presentation)
    2. commission rep presents about the role of the commission & their resources for groups
    3. Open floor discussion (maybe a brainstorm form sent out ahead of time that ppl can fill out to prep them for this discussion)
    4. Follow-up email to registered attendees with contact info of presenters (& possibly all registered participants... if they give permission to share this during registration)
  - ii. Different groups to host webinars for:
    1. Historical societies & museums (plus genealogical groups and reenactors)
    2. Educators (K-12, in school and out of school)
    3. Municipalities
    4. Higher ed
    5. Art & culture groups
- d. General feeling that this would be more successful after the website exists and maybe there is a place online to share that information on what is happening.
- e. All commissioners agreed that they would share the load of doing the presentation and facilitating these discussions
- f. If we're doing one in person session, Angie offered to do it at Ethan Allen Homestead in Burlington
- g. Next steps: Susan and Paul to share with the Commission the concept that we host a series of conversations (virtual and/or statewide) that facilitates bringing people together.

- VIII. [As time allows] Projects/Updates: Committee members share short updates on their work
- a. LCMM returning to sites of Philadelphia (with Smithsonian team) and Royal Savage (with Navy Team) to do further exploration into the wreck sites for the ships

- b. Sen Welch's team visiting Angie Grove this week to learn more about 250<sup>th</sup> in Vermont
- c. LCMM putting together advisory board for next steps with Spitfire excavation project
- d. Angie and EAHM hiring archaeologist to work on collections
- e. July 26-28 EAHM is premiering Fanny Allen documentary

IX. Confirm next meeting date: July 15