

Minutes
Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission
School and Teacher Outreach Committee

March 13, 2023
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting Only
Microsoft Teams meeting

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Attendees:

Martha Deiss
Rich Strum
Phil Holland
Rejoice Scherry
Elsa Gilbertson
Izzy Provoncha
Laura Trieschmann
Victoria Anderson
Victoria Hughes
Cathy Delneo

Absent:

Jonah Spivak
Stuart Lilie

Welcome and Introductions

Agenda for meeting approved

Minutes from February 13th meeting discussed, motion to approve by Rich Strum, second by Phil Holland

Discussion of potential new committee members. Deiss shared resumes of Lisa Bresler, Arts Specialist, Vermont Agency of Education and Meghan Hill, Education Programs Manager, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. Candidates seem well qualified and well connected and can contribute new perspectives and networks to committee. Committee will continue to seek members with a diversity of perspectives and identities. Trieschmann reported that the Commission has reached out to members of the Abenaki and Stockbridge-Munsee communities and will continue work to engage community representatives.

Motion to approve potential committee members and pass approval to full Commission

Approval of Lisa Bresler, motion to approve by Phil Holland, second by Rich Strum

Approval of Meghan Hill, motion to approve by Victoria Hughes, second by Rejoice Scherry

Rich Strum presented professional development opportunities for teachers and sought input from committee. Fort Ticonderoga presents a regularly scheduled webinar entitled “Ticonderoga Tuesdays” and has offered to include topics that might be of special interest to Vermont teachers.

- Draft plans for October 2023 highlight Ethan Allen’s capture of Fort Ticonderoga with a presentation by an historian (tbd), a presentation about a painting in the Fort Ticonderoga collection, and a discussion of pedagogy/methodology for teachers to include materials in classroom.
- Draft plans for webinar in February/March 2024 include a focus on Archaeology and the Revolutionary War in the Champlain Valley, with potential presentations from experts at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, Fort Ticonderoga, and the Vermont Archaeological Society.
- Committee expressed interest in moving forward with plans, to be solidified by this summer for promotion in fall.
- Committee discussed possible suggestions for an historian to discuss Ethan Allen and members will consult with colleagues at Vermont Public, Ethan Allen Homestead Museum, and Bennington Museum for additional suggestions. Anderson noted benefits of using a set program that has an existing audience.
- Strum mentioned that there is no budget for guest speakers, but Trieschmann said Commission might be able to help out if needed. Trieschmann suggested adding discussion of potential speakers about Ethan Allen to Commission agenda.

Update on summer teacher workshop with Angela Labrador. Trieschmann is writing the justification memo for the contract following the approval of the workshop proposal by the executive committee of the Commission. Gilbertson noted a conversation with Labrador about dates for the workshop which will probably be in late July 2023.

Deiss shared the upcoming teacher professional development workshop by Kathy Swan organized by the Champlain Valley Educator Development Center on April 18-19, 2023. Swan, co-author of the C3 standards and an outstanding presenter, will focus on using inquiry-based teaching to promote justice and combat inequity.

Discussion of planning for upcoming listening sessions. Initial plans include sending a Doodle poll to teachers who provided contact information at VASS session in December, with date options for a Monday or Thursday in May.

- Goals are to get input from teachers about incorporating the 250th into their classrooms, share info about professional development opportunities, and get feedback from teachers about possibility of 250th related Governor’s Institute (GIV).
- Delneo suggested holding the listening session virtually on Monday, May 8th, the date of the regularly scheduled committee meeting, rather than adding another date to busy schedules.
- Holland cautioned not sharing too much about possible GIV sessions, but focus on popularizing the idea.
- Discussion continued about providing resources based on suggestions gathered at VASS and how committee can collect additional information from educators at the listening session. Provoncha suggested asking teachers what they want/need for their classrooms, like primary sources or canned lessons plans – and indicated that resources and ideas rather than lesson plans would be useful in his classroom.

- Deiss reminded committee of suggestions from VASS that involved providing funding to teachers for resources and field trips, and asked if funding might be available from the Commission.
- Trieschmann indicated that the Commission might have some funding but will also need to seek additional grants to support the work.
- Discussion continued about the importance of involving representatives from the Abenaki community in this work.
- Committee will finalize plans for listening session in May with additional guidance from Provoncha and Hughes.

April Agenda

Finalize listening session

Plan to reach out to elementary educators

Adjourn