

**Minutes**  
**Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission**  
**Executive Committee Meeting**  
**May 23, 2023**  
**2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**  
**Microsoft Teams meeting**

**Attendance:**

Laura V. Trieschmann, Commission Chair

Jim Brangan, Finance and Admin Committee chair

John Kruger, Finance and Admin Committee vice chair

Martha Deiss, School and Teacher Outreach Committee vice chair

Susan McClure, Research and Historical Committee chair

Jim Lockridge, Arts and Cultural Heritage Committee chair

Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup, Arts and Cultural Heritage Committee vice chair

Martin Mahoney, Marketing and Public Outreach Committee chair

Cynthia Davis, Administrative Coordinator

Meeting called to order at 2:06 PM

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

**II. Changes to the Agenda**

- No changes to agenda

**III. Public Comment**

- No public comment

**IV. Approve March 28, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

- March 28, 2023, meeting minutes approved by consensus.

**V. Chair Reporting**

- Ms. Trieschmann reported the required State of Vermont funding is in the Big Bill, which is under review by the Governor. This will enable the hiring of a consultant to staff the Commission and all committees, branding, outreach, education, and markers. Contracts have been executed for Alexandra Piper/Outreach Presentation and Vermont Archaeological Society/Educator Training 2024. Revolutionary Narratives will be coming to the June in person meeting to provide a presentation.

**VI. Committee Reporting**

- **School and Teacher Outreach**

- Ms. Deiss provided the details of the May 8 School and Teacher Outreach meeting. Educator Influencers were invited to attend the meeting and share ideas for incorporating the 250<sup>th</sup> into curriculum and how the Committee/Commission could assist. The meeting was well attended with about 10 educators representing elementary, middle, and high schools. Packets of materials to help continue the conversation were prepared and mailed by Ms. Deiss. Ms. Trieschmann shared that she heard from the teachers that it is easier for them to move forward with prepared toolkits and plans for accessing historic sites.
- **Research and Historical**
  - Ms. McClure provided an overview of the Endorsement Criteria outlined by the Research and Historical Committee. The Committee utilized language from both the 250<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan and Executive Order creating the Commission from the criteria. Executive Committee members are asked to send Ms. McClure editing suggestions for the Research Committee to review and re-present the document to the Executive Committee for review. Ms. Trieschmann requested the edited document be ready to present again at the full 250<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting on June 29, 2023.
  - Ms. McClure shared the Outreach Presentation that was initiated by consultant Alexandra Piper and edited by the Research Committee. The next steps, in consultation with Ms. Piper: 1) identify images; 2) identify music and how narrated; and 3) create a PowerPoint or video that can be used for outreach meetings, placed on our website, and shared widely. Ms. McClure will create a draft version of the presentation for presentation to the full Commission at the June 29, 2023, meeting. Committee members are welcome to forward comments and suggestions to Ms. McClure.
- **Marketing and Public Outreach**
  - Mr. Mahoney reported the challenges of recruiting committee members and will reach out to Ms. Trieschmann regarding the issue. Ms. Trieschmann noted funding will be provided by the Department of Tourism and Marketing to support the branding. It was recommended that a contractor be hired to design a logo, which is a priority. Ms. Trieschmann has a temporary employee with extensive marketing knowledge who is eager to assist. A designated staff member of the Department of Tourism and Marketing will be assigned to guide the Committee.
- **Arts and Cultural Heritage**
  - Mr. Lockridge reported the committee has met a couple of times and a direction has been set. He will be creating a draft message intended for the arts and cultural heritage community and will be connecting with Commission members to review the draft. He reported America 250<sup>th</sup> does not have outreach tools and resources available for the committee to engage the arts and cultural communities.
- **Finance and Admin**

- Mr. Brangan discussed fundraising opportunities identified by the Committee, which is developing a fundraising plan. The Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership will be emphasizing the Revolutionary War over the next three years with grant funding available. The Committee discussed smaller implementation grants supported by the \$15,000 remaining from the \$25,000 outreach grant the Commission received. Additional sources of funding for grants and marketing are continuing to be identified.

**VII. Project Proposals**

- Ms. Trieschmann shared the city/town 250<sup>th</sup> Proclamation draft prepared by Mr. Spivak, requesting edits before the next executive committee meeting.

**VIII. New Business**

- The Committee was reminded of the regional meeting on June 21 at Fort Ticonderoga.
- **Adjournment**  
Adjourned by consensus.  
Meeting adjourned at 3:25PM