

Approved May 10, 2022
Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission
March 16, 2022
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
GoTo Virtual Meeting Only

Commission Participants:

Laura Trieschmann, chair	John Krueger
Jim Brangan, vice chair	Melody Machin
James Lockridge	Stephen Perkins
Israel Provancha	Martin Mahoney
Susan McClure	Catherine Delneo
Jonah Spivak	Heather Pelham
Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup	Tom Hughes

Commission Absent: Paul Deslandes

Staff Participants: Cynthia Davis
Tracy Martin
Elsa Gilbertson
Marylou Chicote
Shannon Konvicka
Tom McMurdo

Guests: Phil Holland, Education Committee
Mathew Keagle, Fort Ticonderoga

Ms. Trieschmann started meeting 11:03 a.m.
Meeting was not recorded

I. Welcome

The Commission welcomed Catherine Delneo, the new state librarian, and Martin Mahoney of Bennington Museum.

II. Changes to the Agenda

- No changes to agenda

III. Public Comment

- No public Comment

IV. Review/Approve January 18, 2022, Minutes

- Mr. Spivak made a motion to accept the minutes; motion was seconded by Mr. Kruger.
Motion passed 13-1-0

Rollcall Vote:

Mr. Provancha: Yes

Mr. Spivak: Yes

Mr. Mahoney: Yes

Mr. Lockridge: Yes

Mr. Brangan: Yes

Ms. McClure: Yes

Mr. Ilstrup: Yes

Mr. Hughes: Yes

Ms. Delneo: Abstain

Ms. Pelham: Yes

Mr. Krueger: Yes

Ms. Machin: Yes

Mr. Perkins: Yes

Ms. Trieschmann: Yes

V. Committee Updates

• Outreach

- The Outreach Committee has met twice since the last commission meeting and are in development of a presentation for in-person meetings, including a video to post online. The committee plans to host meetings throughout the state. They are looking for input from the community to implement into a strategic plan. An inquiry has been made to Vermont Council on Rural Development about hosting meetings.

• Education

- Mr. Holland reported the commission met two days ago. There was a presentation at the meeting by educators from Fort Ticonderoga about their educational programming, which extends into Vermont. The committee is looking into creating a modest Vermont history bookshelf of those titles for distribution to schools and libraries. Suggestions are being gathered and coordinated with Vermont Historic Society for titles appropriate for children and adults. Ms. Trieschmann suggested a reading list for the Commission, with the purpose of listing books as recommended.

• Establishment of other Committees

- Discussions explored the addition of three new committees—Events, Fundraising, Marketing. The Commission chose to focus on a Fundraising Committee, needed to explore how to accept funds and raise money. It is anticipated that the Outreach Committee will be evolving eventually to become the Events Committee and that the outreach and listening sessions for 2022 shall inform the efforts of a Marketing Committee. The public outreach meetings shall also be an opportunity to recruit volunteers for the committees.

Mr. Spivak made a motion to create a Fundraising Committee. Mr. Brangan seconded the motion.

Rollcall vote:

Mr. Provancha: Yes

Mr. Spivak: Yes

Mr. Mahoney: Yes

Mr. Lockridge: Yes

Mr. Brangan: Yes

Ms. McClure: Yes

Mr. Ilstrup: Yes

Mr. Hughes: Yes
Ms. Delneo: Yes
Ms. Pelham: Yes
Mr. Krueger: Yes

Ms. Machin: Yes
Mr. Perkins: Yes
Ms. Trieschmann: Yes

VI. Opportunity Discussion and Announcement

- Coordination with other states and America250
 - There have been regular conversations with America 250. All Commission members are welcome to join those conversations. At this time, the Commission has not signed on to the Programmatic Agreement with America250, but that remains a possibility for the future.
- Diversity, equity, inclusion training
 - Ms. McClure, Ms. Trieschmann, and Mr. Ilstrup met with Tabitha Moore about diversity, equity, and inclusion and how to address it as part of the outreach and anniversary. Xusana Davis, director of the Office of Racial Equity, has been contacted to request training specifically for the Commission. Ms. Trieschmann attends quarterly meetings with the African American Heritage Trial Group and has asked that the 250th be a part of the regular agenda for outreach, inclusion, events, and planning. Ms. Machin will be presenting a Native American perspective for commemorative anniversaries at the May meeting.
- Marketing—Branding and Logo
 - Mr. Lockridge brought up that the logo design is an opportunity for the Commission to engage broadly across Vermont with artists and designers. The example of New Jersey having a contest was noted. Discussion will continue at next meeting.
- Staffing discussion.
 - There was a discussion about hiring an Executive Director. Ms. Trieschmann reported funding is not in place yet for hiring. Mr. Spivak spoke of the value of paid staff for the benefit of Commissioners' time. Financial legislation is crossing over this week and the Commission is too late this year for a request. Outreach in 2022 shall better inform the plan for additional funding requests of the legislature. Requests through the Division for Historic Preservation or Department of Tourism and Marketing shall need to be prepared in September for the Governor's budget and legislative session the following year.

VII. Adjourn

- Ms. McClure made a motion to end the meeting. Ms. Trieschmann seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.