



**Draft Minutes
Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission
July 18, 2025
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Microsoft Teams**

Members Present: Laura V. Trieschmann, Chair
Cathy Delneo
Paul Deslandes
Tom Hughes
Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup
Martin Mahoney
Susan Evans McClure
Heather Pelham
Izzy Provoncha
Jonah Spivak
Breanna Sheehan

Members Absent: Steve Perkins
Jim Brangan

Staff: Lindsay Pacheco
Josh Bell

Public: Andrew Whipple, Isle La Motte Historical Society

I. Welcome

Laura Trieschmann opened the meeting at 10:34am.
Laura introduced the new Director of State Historic Sites Josh Bell to the 250th Commission. Announced that John Krueger has resigned from Commission.

II. Changes to the Agenda

Jonah Spivak recommended Commission should have discussion on Vermont's participation in the Great American Fair.

III. Public Comment

No public comment.

IV. Review and Approve Minutes

a. [May 16, 2025](#)

Jonah Spivak made a motion to approve the minutes with minor editing; Susan Evans McClure seconded the motion.

V. Grant Updates

Prior to meeting, Champlain Valley Partnership 2025 grant awardees list were shared with Commission. All awarded grants are American Revolution themed projects in communities in VT, NY, and Quebec.

Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup shared that four \$5,000 grants were awarded to the first round of Vermont Humanities grants. The fall grants will open on August 1, with a deadline of September 10. Decisions will be made in October. These grants are utilizing \$25,000 from the 250th Commission's funding secured in 2023.

Susan Evans McClure shared that Vermont Arts Council has been offered \$25,000 but is waiting to hear back from National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) about what the funding can be used for. The \$25,000 of the 250th Commission's funds are reserved for VT Arts, but if matching funding is not available it will go to VT Humanities to augment their Revolutionary War-themed grants.

Steve Perkins is not present, but the Commission will be in touch with him regarding any funding or grant opportunities at VT Historical Society.

The Commission shall compile a one-pager ask for 2026 legislative session. Previously asked for \$250,000 for each State FY26 and 27, but it was not funded. Plan to ask for another \$250,000 for next fiscal year cycle.

VI. Partnerships: Vermont Supreme Court

Laura V. Trieschmann met with the State Court administrator Teri Corsones for the Vermont Supreme Court to discuss partnership with the 250th Commission. They have created an ad hoc judiciary committee to commemorate the 250th.

Planning ideas include developing a template on classroom presentations on Declaration of Independence, reenactments of oral arguments and trials at courthouse – mentioned Dina and Steven Jacobs case, Lucy Terry Prince case – which the Judges and Bar Association is very interested in participating in, and celebrating Constitution Day with an emphasis on the 250th. They also applied to the Library of Congress for a month-long 250th themed traveling exhibit that could be displayed at the Vermont Supreme Court. There will be many opportunities for the Commission to collaborate, market, and assist with events.

Retired supreme court judge wrote book on Moses Robinson and they will be hanging his portrait at the Bennington County Courthouse in July 2026 to honor Moses Robinson. Laura is working on getting a roadside marker for Moses Robinson.

Commission has officially sponsored the Ken Burns 250th documentary.

Cost will be split with Vermont State Historic Sites at \$2,500.

VII. Great American Fair

Vermont is listed as participating but Commission members did not realize this was happening. Consensus is that most New England states did not know how they ended up on list, possibly Department of Agriculture was the conduit. Purpose is for State Fair's to be America 250th branded as well as send a delegation to the larger fair on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. next summer. America 250th Folk Life festival will also be occurring next summer on the National Mall.

VIII. New Committee Members

Two resumes were sent out prior to meeting to review for 250th Committees.

- a. Josh Bell, Director of State Historic Sites
 - i. School & Teacher Outreach Committee
 - ii. Marketing Committee.
- b. Eric Howard, Agency of Education
 - i. School & Teacher Outreach Committee

Jonah Spivak made a motion, Izzy Provoncha seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed. Committee members and chairs will be notified.

IX. Committee Updates

- a. Finance/Admin
 - Putting together legislative ask and working on one-pagers.
- b. Marketing & Public Outreach
 - Scheduled for later in day. Commission briefly discussed website updates to prioritize marketing of Commission-endorsed grants on home page and grants page.
- c. Research/Culture Committee
 - Met last month at Ethan Allen Homestead and discussed grant programs. Will be meeting less frequently moving forward as they await funding updates. Plan to stay an available resource for anyone who needs them.
- d. School/Teacher
 - Meeting with Vermont Public in August. Student artwork will be displayed at State House and historic sites in 2026. Vermont Alliance of Social Sciences (VAS) Conference in November will be 250th-themed.

X. Adjourn

- a. Commission will meet every other month on third Friday for the remainder of 2025.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 11:49 am.