

Draft Minutes
Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission
March 14, 2025
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Members Present: Laura Trieschmann, Jim Brangan, Izzy Provoncha, Martin Mahoney, Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup, Paul Deslandes, Heather Pelham, Breanna Sheehan, Sarah Evans McClure, Tom Hughes, Cathy Delneo.

Public: Andrew Whipple

Staff: Lindsay Pacheco, Megan Albert.

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Laura Treischmann welcomed all meeting attendees. Breanna Sheehan introduced herself as a recently appointed Commission member. Andrew Whipple from introduced himself as President of the Isle La Motte Historical Society.

II. **Changes to the Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

III. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

IV. **Review and Approve Minutes**

a. [November 15, 2024 minutes](#)

Martin Mahoney made a motion to approve the minutes of November 15, 2024. Susan Evans McClure seconded. Motion approved unanimously. Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup abstained.

V. **250th Budget Discussion**

a. Financial Review

Laura reviewed the results of the financial request for \$250,000 each year, mainly for funding grants for commemorating communities. There is no anticipation of funding this year or next year.

b. Plan Ahead

The Commission discussed and agreed using the remainder of the funds for grants is the best course of action. Commission and committee meetings need to be reduced. Expenses need to be reduced as well including stickers, magnets, contracts, per diem for Commission meetings, events, the newsletter/MailChimp and print-on-demand swag. Laura said there may be a possibility of finding a match for these funds in the future. Tom Hughes asked what this means for Megan's pay. This would be reduced as well. Breanna suggested reduced hours for administrative tasks. This could be a possibility. In order to apply for grants in the future the Commission would need a financial agent. If there are specific grants that come up that

align with their goals they would apply, but only if it supports the mission of the Commission. We need to figure out our exact expenses and how many meetings we will schedule. The Commission decided to meet three times in 2025. Andrew asked the Commission to consider providing a \$250 grant to towns and cities who have adopted a resolution.

VI. Event Endorsement and Participation

Megan reported on America 250 and American Association of State and Local History 250 Conference. A program Light to Unite is scheduled for National Flag Day. The National Flag Foundation is asking States to endorse the event and light their Statehouses on July 4th, 2026. The Two Lights for Tomorrow program is a call to action for State and local facilities to light two lights from April 18-19, 2025.

The Vermont Library Association asked the 250th Anniversary Commission to table at the upcoming May 19, 2025 conference in Killington. Cathy recommends the Commission not have their own table, but any materials could be at the Department of Libraries table. Christopher also offered to add Commission-related materials at his table. Laura will share brochures. Heather Pelham suggested having a way for people to sign up for the newsletter.

VII. National Partnerships Update

- a. Megan gave an update on America 250 and American Association of State and Local History State Conferences. America 250 monthly State convening reviewed the events they are asking all States to participate in as well as updates on their website. They still have an open call to be added to their financial directory. There are three forms to update which they will add to their website including website information, a civics education statement and financial statement. There is also a program America Gives for days of service.

The American Association of State and Local History 250 Conference mainly consisted of breakout sessions with States in our region. Other states are nervous about funding and moving forward with commemoration plans.

VIII. Committee Updates

- a. Admin/Financial

Jim Brangan said there are 29 grants underway. Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership will issue proposals for upcoming grants this Summer.

- b. Marketing & Public Outreach

The Marketing committee has been discussing print-on-demand swag with Bonfire, a US company. There would be no charge for the service until people order swag. The Commission said they would like more information to consider it.

- c. Research/Historical Committee

- c.1. Merged with Arts and Cultural Heritage Organization

- Laura asked if the Commission wants to merge the two committees. Susan and Christopher reported that they will be meeting next week to discuss this potential merge. The first item discussed will be a new name.

- d. School/Teacher Outreach

- d.1. Vermont Public Student Competition (encumbered funds)
 - Izzy discussed funding the Vermont Public Student Competition 250th themed projects.
- d.2. Coloring Book/Graphic Novel Request
 - Izzy discussed how the committee was still working on a K-2 coloring book. The subject was sent to the Research and Historical committee. Susan reported that the committee wanted to review the available resources and if other people can produce this as opposed to an expense to the Commission. Christopher suggested putting it on the educational resource page to print themselves. Megan mentioned the Bennington 250 coloring book is on the Vermont 250 website. Susan said the Maritime museum may have a coloring book available. Breanna said there is an Abenaki curriculum in develop that could be added as a resources.

IX. **Adjourn**

a. 2025 meeting schedule for Commission

- a.1. The Commission agreed to meet on May 16 and July, then determine how often to meet from there.

The meeting adjourned at 12:01pm