

**DRAFT Minutes**  
**Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission**  
**September 13, 2024**  
**10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
**Microsoft Teams meeting**

**Members present:** Tom Hughes  
John Krueger  
Izzy Provoncha  
Jonah Spivak  
Martin Mahoney  
Laura V. Trieschmann  
Paul Deslandes  
Jim Brangan  
Cathy Delneo  
Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup  
Susan Evans McClure

**Members Absent:** Heather Pelham  
Steve Perkins

**Staff:** Megan Albert, Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> Administrative and Event Coordinator  
**Public:** None

### **I. Welcome**

Laura Trieschmann opened the meeting at 10:30 am

### **II. Changes to the Agenda**

The posted agenda was a draft. There was Strategic Plan, Video Presentation and American 250 funding directory added to the final agenda.

### **III. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **IV. Review and Approve Minutes**

a. June 21, 2024 [VT250 Minutes June 21 2024 LP.docx](#)

**John Kreuger made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 Commission meeting. Jim Brangan seconded. Motion approved unanimously.**

### **V. Introduction of Website**

Laura gave an update on the 250<sup>th</sup> website and reiterated Megan. Megan gave the overview through shared screen. There is much to be added and changed, but the basic elements are set. She suggested launching it even if it's not complete. Susan suggested a soft launch. Laura agreed and asked Megan to work on this.

## **VI. Strategic Plan**

Laura shared the last version of the strategic plan and suggested the executive committee should work on updating it. Megan will send the Executive Committee a Word document to begin editing and add it to next meeting's agenda.

**Laura made a motion to send the strategic plan to the Executive committee to suggest changes to the Commission. Jonah Spivah seconded. Motion approved unanimously. Izzy Provnocha abstained as he just entered the meeting.**

## **VII. Progress Updates**

### a. Video Presentation

Laura introduced the Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> video created by Susan Evans McClure and Vermont Humanities staff. Captions were recently added. Megan will share the link to the video when it is available. Laura encouraged everyone to share it. Tom asked if the video has the website link at the end. Susan assured it will be linked to the video or available on the Youtube channel. Jonah suggested a short version of the video for social media. Susan agreed and wants to find someone to hire to do this. Jonah will work on this.

### b. Commission Membership Changes

Laura gave an update on Commission membership changes including resignation of Jim Lockridge and Melody \_ There is now a need for a VCNAA member. Breanna Sheehan, VCNAA Administrative Director has been nominated and awaiting Governor Scott's appointment.

### c. 250th Community Planning Grants

John and Jim gave an update that there were 35 communities awarded grants. There is still funding available. Laura suggests getting a full update from Steve Perkins.

### d. Legislative Funding Asks

Laura explained the ask of \$250,000 per year for the next two years. It will largely be used for implementation grants. The second year for a symposium and any other additional costs.

### e. America 250 Funding Directory

Megan explained the ask from America 250 to be listed on their funding directory. It requires the description and cost of potential projects. Izzy explained a student video competition in partnership with Vermont Public. There will be more details soon.

#### f. Stickers and Magnets with 250th Logo

Laura discussed distribution of stickers to start promoting the commemoration. We have ordered another 8,000. People are putting them on their computers, phones and other places. Tom said he has a stack of them, but having difficulty giving them out and thinks there are better ways to promote the Commission. Commission members commented on a wide interest and use of stickers of all ages. We will also have magnets to distribute soon.

#### g. Books to State Library

Cathy Delneo updated the Commission about the Revolutionary War era State library book list. They will be a part of the inter-library loan system. Many books will also be available as e-books and audio books. There will be a promotion through a direct website. The department has placed the orders, but we still need to work out the financial aspect. Laura said there was \$15,000 in the legislative ask for this and to add more books to the collection. Megan will get together with Cathy to add it to the VT250th website. Laura also suggested a press release.

#### h. Endorsements and Calendar

Laura reminded everyone about sending the endorsement form for events to be added to the calendar. Tom asks who endorses them. Laura said the Executive committee endorses them. Tom noticed the criteria list is included twice. Megan will

#### i. Town Resolutions (34 to date)

Laura explained how Megan sent a letter to all towns and cities throughout the State to adopt town resolutions. She added about 10 more to the list. She is also sent a letter to the towns who have already adopted a resolution to update them and offer promotional materials including stickers.

#### j. Conference Attendance (July update and September)

Chris will be heading to the America 250 conference in Pennsylvania later this month. Megan gave a report on the America 250 conference in Washington DC including the discussions with other states of how to engage smaller communities and the search for grant opportunities.

### **VIII. Committee Updates**

#### a. Admin/Financial

None

b. Marketing & Public Outreach

Megan did some research on providing additional swag through Shopify and make it available on the website.

c. Research/Historical Committee

Working on hosting webinars for targeted groups in hopes of creating discussion with attendees planning events and commemorations.

d. School/Teacher Outreach

Jonah will be a guest on the VTCLA podcast. The committee will be tabling at VASS this year.

e. Arts and Cultural Heritage Organization (needs chair)

There is a need for an Arts and Cultural Heritage Organization chair. Chris offered to become Chair.

Tom asked if there was a plan for a Lafayette 200th visit Vermont and if the Commission should discuss this. Jonah added that a representative from the group is a part of the Regional 250<sup>th</sup> meetings. Laura asked what other states are planning. Megan will do some research on this.

## **IX. Adjourn**

Laura adjourned the meeting at 11:48am.

a. 2024 meeting schedule for Commission

1. October 18
2. December 20

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Albert  
250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission Administrator