



Draft Minutes
Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission
November 15th, 2024
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Microsoft Teams

Members present: Tom Hughes
John Krueger
Izzy Provoncha
Jonah Spivak
Martin Mahoney
Laura V. Trieschmann
Paul Deslandes
Jim Brangan
Cathy Delneo
Susan Evans McClure
Heather Pelham
Steve Perkins

Members Absent: Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup

Staff: Lindsay Pacheco, Megan Albert

Public: None

I. Welcome and Introductions

Laura Trieschmann opened the meeting at 10:30am.

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. [September 13, 2024](#)

Jonah Spivak made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2024 VT250th Anniversary Commission meeting minutes. Izzy Provancha seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

V. Progress Updates

a. Website is UP!! <https://anniversary250.vermont.gov/>

Laura announced the website launch and reviewed some of the issues that came about in getting it online which included changing the domain name. Jonah asked if the Commission would like to use Vermont250.com. The Commission was receptive. Jonah will send the rights to the domain over to the appropriate person in ACCD. Megan Albert shared her screen for the Commission to browse the website together. There was a question raised about the Education page not having much content and using previous language. The School and Teacher Outreach Committee discussed revising the language and providing more resources. Steve Perkins suggesting adding Vermont History Explorers to the Student page. Meg Mallory mentioned this could be a bit circular. Laura agreed we should have the information on each page.

b. Town Resolution updates

Laura reiterated that towns have been notified about adopting Town Resolutions. Megan added that the letter has been sent out to towns who have not yet adopted one again and added that Heritage Partners have been reaching out to their local Selectboards for their consideration. It is available on the website.

c. Endorsements and Calendar updates

There have been no new endorsements submitted to the Commission. Events are being added to the calendar as they are endorsed by the Commission.

d. Newsletter update

Megan has worked with the Department of Communications on a format for the upcoming, monthly newsletter. Laura explained how in order to use Mailchimp, we will need to pay a monthly fee of \$100 for 5,000 email contacts. The Commission approves this. Megan will work with Lindsay to set this up and aim for a December or January first distribution date.

Motion was made and unanimously approved MailChimp services for distribution of the Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission newsletter.

e. Lafayette 200

Laura discussed the upcoming Lafayette farewell tour which Megan has attended. The first monthly meeting started their Vermont event planning efforts. Members of the committee asked Megan to inquire about having the Governor attend one or all events in Vermont as the Governor at the time of the original tour attended all of his stops. Tom Hughes gave an update on the meeting he attended and explained that they are very much in the beginning of their planning.

Steve said he has access to the informational panels for display. Megan will continue to attend their meetings moving forward.

VI. Committee Updates

a. Admin/Financial

Jim gave updates on Federal, Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership and Vermont Covered grant opportunities. There is a State legislative ask for \$250,000 for two years to support Vermont 250th commemorations and is still being reviewed. Laura asked if there will be more Vermont Covered grants in the future. Steve said there are plans to do another round of planning grants after the holidays. Jonah asked if the School and Outreach Committee was granted the fee for VASS conference.

Motion was made and approved the School and Outreach Committee fee for attending VASS conference.

b. Marketing & Public Outreach

Laura asked about an update on swag that is not Shopify as there is no guarantee it will be printed in the US. Megan mentioned the alternative print-on-demand company that does have an office in the US. Martin Mahoney said the committee will get back to this at the next meeting.

c. Research/Historical Committee

Susan Evans McClure gave an update on the Outreach Webinars they are hosting. There have been three and one upcoming which is expecting the most attendance. Megan added the recordings to the website and a summary email has been sent to all who submitted an RSVP that includes links to discussed resources and the videos.

d. School/Teacher Outreach

Izzy discussed committee updates including the K-12 250th outreach webinar and upcoming VASS conference. The outreach webinar went well, but did not have as many in attendance as expected, but people have been reaching out to Megan to view the recording. The committee will attend the VASS conference to table this year with brochures, books, various resources, stickers and magnets.

e. Arts and Cultural Heritage Organization

There are no updates for the committee at this time.

Laura asked all Commission members to invite people to join Vermont 250th committees.

VII. New Business

a. Virtual meet-and-greet with America 250th February 28, 2025

Laura asked if any Commission members would speak for a Vermont 250th break-out session with America 250th on February 28, 2025. Jonah agreed to do this.

Tom mentioned Laura's presentation at Castleton which focused on the steps to take to plan 250th commemorations. This presentation can be added to the website. Tom asked about a card with 250th records over the next years. Laura said this could be a topic for the Marketing committee. Heather Pelham agreed that the Commission will need to this for communications in the future. Jim added making connections at all historic sites, not just Revolutionary war sites.

VIII. Adjourn

Jonah Spivak motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:35am. Martin Mahoney seconded. Motion approved unanimously.