

Minutes

Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission School and Teacher Outreach Committee

April 6, 2026 | 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting Only Microsoft Teams meeting

Attendees: Elsa, Chris S., Rich S., Izzy, Phil, Meghan H.B.

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Changes to Agenda

III. Approval of March Minutes

- Minutes approved.

IV. Public Comment

V. Old Business

- Art at the State House – recap and plans for next year
 - Professionalism
- VT Public – teacher lesson developers; outreach needed for K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12
 - Met with Martha and Heather this morning. Working to develop 250th curriculum that could go on Vermont Public website
 - \$240 stipend attached to each gradeband
 - Izzy 99% convinced great 250th work is already happening.
 - Meghan: Have Heather create an email request to the 250th committee members and they could spread that to their contacts.
 - Chris: Contest for the best 250th lesson plan.? Doesn't sound great to me... (Izzy agrees)
 - Izzy – Heather looking to have everything wrapped up by early Summer, definitely by the start of the next school year.
 - Chris – Maybe proposals, and then a stipend for one educator in each grade band to get compensated for fleshing the idea out as a fully realized lesson plan. A slightly different tact than a straight win/lose contest.
 - Heather seeing serious cuts coming to Vermont Public – really limiting their ability to support projects.
 - The CTE videos should be out soon and the committee will have an opportunity to provide feedback
- Patriots of Mount Independence update – Elsa
 - This year, for the first time, doing a day with the experts and reenactors to meet with schools that sign up in advance.

- Martha kindly sent out blurb in a field note
- Slate Valley emailed to get more information – two of his schools were the first to sign up (Castleton and Orwell (Hubbardton Battlefield Home Team)). 3rd and 4th, and a few high school students
- Full up with what they can handle.
- Jonah – When?
- May 19 (before they open)
- At the end of July (close to July 28th) Mount Independence will have a reading of the Declaration of Independence. To coincide with the rough time it would have been read in VT

VI. New Business

- What is next?
 - 250th 2.0 Student Exhibition
 - Eric: Power of Place.
 - Jonah – Founding of Vermont – your town. Pride of place, their town. Lean into the Vermont theme.
 - Izzy – Origins
 - Izzy – we are wrapping up a bunch of projects. What is next?
 - Jonah – remind educators that the 250th does not end. Our best year is to come!
 - Meghan – thought it was cool to talk to kids for the CTE video. Wonder if we could do a Zoom lecture or Q&A series on a larger scale for schools around the state.
 - Elsa – students were so interested in Meghan’s job when she presented to kids.
 - Kids had great questions, and could be a great way to connect with kids.
 - Elsa and Jonah think this is a brilliant idea and that sending an invitation is a good way to go.
 - Izzy: Start next school year?
 - Meghan: Probably. Could assemble groups and topics. Maybe one a month for the school year, or one a week for one or two months.
 - Izzy – Great Idea! Specific themes / places?
 - Meghan - maybe place-based.
 - Jonah - what if we did it by supervisory union
 - Eric: Maybe grouping by county – 14
 - Izzy– since there is no money, this could be an inexpensive way to engage in schools

- Elsa – good to have one or two sessions that were broader than county. A lot of kids have never seen Lake Champlain again. Also good for kids to learn about other part of state
- Meghan - Maybe doing a couple parts or sections with a local part and a Vermont-wide part.
- Rich: Maybe 250th themes can be part of the guiding – slough Fort T. themes are different from Vermont
- Jonah: Place-based 250th, Lecture Series, and VASS Conference, that feels like a full schedule.
- Phil: What is happening with the 250th Commission?
 - Jonah: Not a ton happening. We can be rightly proud about all that we have done
 - Trying to get a little more money for the commission. Possibly \$50,000.
 - Either education or marketing. The VT Tourism department has been looking for events.

VII. Adjourn

- Tell Martha we hope she gets better soon!

Next Meeting: TBD

Future Agenda:

- Historic sites passports – Josh