

Minutes

Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission School and Teacher Outreach Committee

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

Attendees: Martha, Eric, Rich, Elsa, Jonathan, Meg Mallory, Phil, Josh B, Izzy

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Changes to Agenda

III. Approval of April Minutes

- Rich and Elsa move and second approval.

IV. Public Comment

- Elsa on the news! Talking about the Revolution.
- Phil – Talking about the Bennington Monument on channel 5. Phil was interviewed. Assume there is coverage about the monument.
 - Josh saw the reporter but did not see anything pop up.
- Jonathan dropped link: <https://vermonthistory.org/50-for-250>

V. Old Business

- Update to the Arts – Eric
 - Will be traveling to Chimney Point next Thursday to reset up the 2026 250th Exhibition at Chimney Point
 - Creating a unified “Power of Place” Student Exhibition framework for all arts disciplines, with visual and performing arts possibilities
 - Overarching theme:
 - The year 2027 represents Vermont's 250th anniversary of its independence from Great Britain, New York, and New Hampshire in January of 1777. It is also the year of the founding of the independent Vermont republic which lasted fourteen years before joining the Union in 1791.
 - Looking at our history and daily life through the lens of “place” helps us think about ways in which we as individuals make sense of and connect to our place and understand the past and present. It makes us think about the land and areas we now call Vermont, including our counties, cities, towns, villages, and homes, in a deeper way. By focusing on our local place, we can ask important questions about our community’s past, present, and future. This includes

looking at how Indigenous peoples, as well as past and present Vermonters, have connected with the land, how communities use resources, and how expansion and modernization have affected different groups of people. This theme helps us examine our natural world and built environments, grounding us in the places, people, and ideas that make Vermont unique, and how Vermonters across time and place have exemplified the state motto of “Freedom and Unity”.

- Opportunity built around C3 Geography and History standards, and NCAS Create and Connect Standards
- The hope would be for much more engagement than last year.
 - Meeting with VAEA Youth Art Month chair, tomorrow, to discuss opportunities to team up this March
 - Hoping for local art shows and performances, as well as a state level exhibition
 - Local shows will be a big lift, wondering about how to support. Susan Evans-McClure of VAC suggested Historical Societies as possible sites and contact for the League of Local Historical Societies is Eileen Corcoran: eileen.corcoran@vermonthistory.org
 - Also wondering about public libraries as another possible suggestion
 - State level opportunities:
 - Statehouse Cafeteria
 - Farmer’s Night
 - Recording at Vermont Public
 - Love other ideas and opportunities to expand or in case any of these fall through
- Developing Documents (only openable by AOE, will aim to have Google Doc Drafts for next Month)
 - [DRAFT edu-250th-Power-Of-Place-Student-Exposition-Information-Packet.docx](#)
 - [DRAFT edu-Visual-Arts-250th-Power-of-Place-Student Exhibition-2027.docx](#)
- Hoping to present at VMEA – sent in a session proposal last week.
- Hope to be able to at least share a teaser with educators by the end of the school year to allow thinking about this opportunity and putting it on the radar for those who plan over the Summer.
- Plan to develop regional PD opportunities in September/October
- Teacher outreach for lessons with VT Public

- APB looking for grade band lessons to supply lesson plans to be shared by Vermont Public. We sent out the call and got nothing back from educators.
- Firmly believe we are doing good things that people just don't know about
- Jonah is not here but always connects with educators
- VT Public Teacher Ambassadors
- Going to ask Heather to come back to this group
- Lessons focused on Vermont's 250th, K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12. Plug and play and a way for Vermont Public to highlight teachers doing positive 250th work
- Meg Mallory choppily (bad connection) describing a lesson that she is aware of. Martha will ask about it and maybe touch base with Meg
- Vermont Historic Society update
 - Lot of focus on Vermont 250th
 - Coffee Table book focusing on 50 objects connected to theme
 - Historians who have written pieces for this
 - Anyone able to come view objects in the book
 - Book by author Potash, being turned into a 2-volume book – dense
 - 250th Tab on explorer website. Looks more user friendly than in the past. Become more teacher facing and less student facing
 - Resources

VI. New Business

- Historic Sites Passports – Josh
 - Visitorship to Vermont Historic Site. Letters not drafted. Here is the idea:
 - State historic sites will provide a pass to all students completing their 4th grade year for them and one adult to have free access to every Vermont Historic site. About 7000 students.
 - Get them exploring Vermont and “Place”
 - Happy to take Martha's recommendation on who this should go to.
 - Izzy thinks teachers are a more direct way to learn about it.
 - Rich suggests using School librarians,
 - Meg suggests front office staff.
 - Josh – Teachers will get a PDF to print for each students.
 - Martha suggests the Vermont Principals Association. Mike McGraith may have good idea how to get this out.
 - Jonathan can post to school Library Listserv
 - Martha will ask Erin Davis, tomorrow
 - Meg noted If you send me the information, Josh, I could post it on the VHD 250 tab!

- How can we support virtual student learning opportunities?
 - Megan Hill's idea to develop videos for schools.
 - We talked about taping them, but the privacy of students does not allow for that.
 - Rich suggests that his curator dissects a painting of the capture of Fort Ticonderoga – 25 minutes.
 - Different programs for different grade levels
 - Phil has heard that talk, and it is excellent
 - Money – Izzy: our ask for money has been used well, so they should be likely to support.
 - Elsa - It doesn't cost anything to ask if Vermont public can help, but, they are in dire straits
- Rich shared the [Thirtieth Annual War College of the Seven Years' War](#). Has two slots from long distance teachers who have dropped out due to the cost of flying. rstrum@fort-ticonderoga.org.

VII. Adjourn

Next Meeting: TBD

Future Agenda:

- CTE video updates
- Draft 250th Student Exhibition Documents for review and feedback
- Project Updates