

Minutes

Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission

History and Culture Committee

June 22, 2026

3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via: Microsoft Teams Meeting

About the History and Culture Committee:

Committee Purpose: Support history and culture organizations in Vermont to commemorate the 250th

- **Promotion:** Ensure that orgs are sharing events on the events calendar
- **Supporting Funding Opportunities:**
 - o Sharing info about grants and funding resources through our networks
 - o Support Vermont Humanities on future 250th funding opportunities (potential training on evaluating applications or participating in grant panels)
 - o Host future webinars on 250th funding across the state (as they come together)
- **Supporting Organizations:**
 - o Survey organizations to see what they want for support from the 250th Commission
- **Historians and Cultural Leaders:**
 - o Continue to play a role as historians and cultural leaders in supporting Vermont's 250th commission's work
 - o Provide resources for organizations on historical information, content, and collections to support their work

- I. Welcome, consensus approval of minutes from March meeting
 - a. In attendance: Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup, Angie Grove, Chris Sabick, Matt Keagle, Susan McClure
- II. No public comment
- III. Updates on 250th Commission funding and grant making:
 - a. All grant funding opportunities are posted on the 250th website: <https://anniversary250.vermont.gov/grant-opportunities>
 - b. 250th Commission, Vermont Humanities, Vermont Arts Council grants here: <https://accd.vermont.gov/press-releases/additional-grants-awarded-support-projects-commemorating-250th-anniversary-american>
 - c. Vermont Humanities funding through another round of Project Grants, then one more month of "rapid response" grants
 - d. Vermont Legislature included \$50K in the FY27 budget for 250th Commission- intent is for some of that funding to be used for grantmaking
- IV. Sharing updates on summer events and programs
 - a. Angie (EAHM) noted that Burlington has not signed the VT250th Resolution- City Council needs to approve the resolution.
 - b. EAHM hosting "Spotlight Vermont 250" highlighting Vermont's cultural organizations in City Hall Park, Burlington on July 11

- c. Vermont Humanities “Charity & Sylvia” project getting lots of media attention: <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/06/14/books/review/tillie-walden-vermont-charity-sylvia.html>
 - d. Fort Ti Independence Day weekend programming marking July 4, 1776 when no one knew about the Declaration of Independence yet! Recreating the retreat of the Continental Army out of their failed invasion of Canada; July 28, portraying the reading of the Declaration of Independence from that date in 1776; Benjamin Warner’s knapsack exhibit open for the month of July
 - e. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum opened new exhibit “Fragments: Voices of the American Revolution on Lake Champlain”; hosting special July 4 program; hosting special activities on Oct. 11 on anniversary of Battle of Valcour (and also programming in Whitehall)
- V. Set next quarterly meeting day
- a. At next meeting, focus on how we should be noting the Vermont anniversary year of 1777.
 - b. September 30 at 3pm