



Final Minutes
Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission
February 13, 2026
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Microsoft Teams

Members Present: Laura V. Trieschmann, Chair
Jim Brangan, Vice Chair
Cathy Delneo
Paul Deslandes
Susan Evans McClure (arrived 11:03am)
Alexandra Garrett (left at 10:49am)
Tom Hughes
Martin Mahoney
Heather Pelham
Steve Perkins
Izzy Provoncha
Breanna Sheehan (arrived 11:16am)
Jonah Spivak

Members Absent: Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup

Staff: Lindsay Pacheco

I. Welcome

Laura Trieschmann opened the meeting at 10:34am.

II. Changes to the Agenda

No changes to the agenda

III. Public Comment

No public comment.

IV. Review and Approve Minutes

a. [November 21, 2025](#)

Jonah Spivak made a motion to approve the minutes; Martin Mahoney seconded the motion. All in favor; motion approved.

V. Grant Updates

- a. Vermont Historical Society
Stephen Perkins spoke on behalf of Vermont Historical Society (VHS). Funds are expended to 25 organizations. Grant report was shared at last Commission meeting. No additional grant funding is expected.
- b. Vermont Humanities
Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup not present, but winter grant deadlines are February 18, May 20, and September 9.
- c. Vermont Arts Council
Susan Evans McClure shared that the next round of grants are due February 13. Mainly been focused on spreading the word on the opportunities. Sharing resources on calendars.
- d. Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership
Jim Brangan spoke on behalf of the CVNHP. \$275,000 worth of grants are projected to be funded in 2027. Presented list of grants underway and completed at last meeting.

VI. Partnerships and Events

- a. Town & City Events
 - i. The 250th state email account has been hearing from towns all over VT about what we're planning for the 250th. This has prompted us to consider moving the events back to the 250th website calendar. With limited amount of funding, engaging communities and towns has been difficult aside from encouraging them to apply for grants. There has been renewed interest in resolutions template, several towns have joined.
 - ii. Laura Trieschmann will be speaking at the South Burlington Rotary on March 19th, discussing Vermont's plans for the 250th anniversary.
 - iii. Fourth of July events that are being put together nationally will be highlighted by Commission, rather than single events in the state.
 - iv. Tom Hughes stressed that the Mount Independence reading of the Declaration should be the most promoted, which was the plan for the state historic sites.
 - v. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is organizing a food shelf drop off with an America 250th wrapped truck. They plan to sort and distribute the food from the State House sometime in September.
 - vi. Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont will host their annual conference in October, which will have a 250th theme.
 - vii. USA CCL 250th has created a map and calendar of major events happening nationwide. Division for Historic Preservation will add all the historic sites events. <https://map.usaccl250.com/>
- b. Civil Air Patrol, US Air Force Auxiliary, Vermont Wing
Laura Trieschmann received email from Civil Air Patrol officer interested in participating in 250th activities. Can contribute flag bearers for ceremonies, etc. The email was shared with all commissioners.

- c. Great American Fair in Washington, D.C.
Deadline for applying has been extended to February 20, 2026. Vermont is waiting for more details and having conversations with New England partners. No decision regarding participation has been made yet. Event is being sponsored by White House and not America250. Governor's Office is leading the conversation.

VII. Committee Updates

- a. Admin/Financial
Commission currently has \$41,000. The ask for \$250,000 was not included in the Governor's budget. Jonah Spivak is leading the conversations with House Appropriations regarding a lower ask for \$75,000. Additional funding could go towards signature event(s) and grant funds

Financial committee determined it was best not to hire at this time for marketing, and to prioritize moving funds through VT Humanities as grants to communities. 2027 will be the big year for Vermont, with the potential for 1-2 signature events. Some funding could go towards education, school groups, and marketing.
- b. Marketing
Martin Mahoney has template for banners, which will be discussed at their next meeting before it is brought to the Commission.
- c. Research/Culture
No updates at this time.
- d. School/Teacher Outreach
VASS Conference in December 2025 was 250th themed with great representation from Commission and attendees. As we get closer, interest is starting to pique and people want to know what they can do. In the middle of working with VT Public on CTE project.
- e. Newsletter Submissions
Lindsay Pacheco is collecting input from commissioners and their committees on news for the upcoming newsletter.
- f. Crown Point Canons
Tom Hughes shared how New York and Massachusetts have been commemorating the cannon sled haul, which will have a big event at Dorchester Heights on the March 17th anniversary. This is a Vermont story because it was mostly Green Mountain Boys who liberated the cannon from two British-held forts on Lake Champlain.
- g. Vermont History Day
Steve Perkins reminded Commission that VT History Day will be April 11. Looking to be one of the largest History Day events that they have had. At least 500-600 students, plus their parents. Theme revolves around the 250th this year.
- h. Following History Day on April 12, there will be a Roadside Historic Marker dedication for Leonard Lord in Swanton; he was the first Vermonter killed in

the line of duty during World War I. There will be a number of Revolutionary War era markers being installed this spring and summer.

- i. Paul Deslandes shared that there is a series of events, mostly being planned by UVM faculty, revolving around 250th. Will keep Commission informed once dates are set.

VIII. Adjourn

- a. 2026 Meeting Schedule
 - i. March 20, 2026
 - ii. May 22, 2026
 - iii. July 17, 2026
 - iv. September 18, 2026
 - v. November 20, 2026
- b. Meeting adjourned at 11:25am.