



Minutes

Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission

September 18, 2026, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Members Present: Laura V. Trieschmann, Chair
Jim Brangan, Vice Chair *arrived 10:55am
Catherine Delneo
Paul Deslandes
Alexandra Garrett
Tom Hughes
Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup
Martin Mahoney *arrived 10:42am, left at 10:55am
Heather Pelham
Eileen Corcoran
Susan Evans McClure *arrived 11:12am
Jonah Spivak

Members Absent: Izzy Provoncha
Breanna Sheehan

Staff: Lindsay Pacheco

Public: Andrew Whipple, Isle La Motte Historical Society

I. Welcome

Laura V. Trieschmann opened the meeting at 10:37am. Eileen Corcoran is attending the meeting on behalf of the Vermont Historical Society while Steve Perkins is on sabbatical.

II. Changes to the Agenda

No changes to the agenda.

III. Public Comment

Andrew Whipple will discuss Isle La Motte's 2026 250th Anniversary events.

IV. Review and Approve Minutes

a. June 1, 2026

Jonah Spivak made a motion to approve the minutes; Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup seconded the motion. Bennington Museum exhibit title will be corrected to "Vermont Vice." All in favor; Eileen Corcoran abstained due to absence; motion approved.

V. Funding Support and Grant Updates

a. **FY27 State of Vermont Funding Allocated: \$50,000**

- i. 250th Commission received additional \$50,000 from most recent legislative session. Previously received \$117,000 in 2024, of which there is \$2,332 remaining; \$3,000 administrative funding from 2021 was recaptured. Overall, there is \$52,322.68 available.
- ii. The proposal for this additional funding was:
 - Implementation grants passed through to municipalities, non-profits, libraries, and educational organizations for community programming in 2026 and 2027: \$25,000
 - Signature public events in 2027, for example, on the Vermont Republic and Constitution, Northern Department Campaign, and Battles of Hubbardton and Bennington
 - Educational events with schools and libraries, and local community awareness
 - Roadside Historic Site Markers (\$3,000 apiece)
 - Administration of Vermont 250th Commission (until December 2027)
- iii. Commission Discussion:
 - Laura V. Trieschmann noted that the educational committee has asked for \$600 to go toward Vermont Social Studies Conference (VASS), allows for table and two commissioners/staffers to attend, and for ice cream at the Art at the Statehouse event.
 - Heather Pelham shared that Vermont Chamber of Commerce already has a Signature Events program with applications, deadline is in October. Award recipients receive VDTM marketing support.
 - Martin Mahoney requested process or rubric for 250th Commission to evaluate before distributing funds for the Signature Events. Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup shared that VT Humanities has an application process for "invitation only" programs. He recommended this for distributing 250th funding. He also suggested grant amounts up to \$5,000.

- iv. Admin and Financial Committee will put together criteria and application process for Signature Event grants.
- v. Commissioners will send names of communities and organizations for invitation to apply for Signature Event grant.
- vi. Jonah Spivak made a motion that the 250th Commission will pass through \$25,000 to VT Humanities grants, \$600 to School and Teacher Outreach Committee, and up to \$20,000 for Signature Event(s). Tom Hughes seconded the motion.

Motion approved 10-0; Roll call vote

Ms. Delneo: Yes
 Mr. Kaufman Ilstrup: Yes
 Mr. Spivak: Yes
 Ms. Corcoran: Yes
 Ms. Pelham: Yes
 Mr. Deslandes: Yes
 Mr. Hughes: Yes
 Ms. Garrett: Yes
 Mr. Brangan: Yes
 Ms. Trieschmann: Yes

b. Vermont Humanities and Vermont Arts Council

VT Humanities 250th grant recipient list can be found [online](#). Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup plans to prepare a comprehensive list of 2026 awarded projects as press release. The list could include CVNHP grants as well.

c. Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership

Jim Brangan announced \$307,000 has been awarded this year for 2027 projects. Request for pre-proposals are pending for 2028 projects. Deadline for proposals is October 17, 2026. CVNHP International Summit will be on October 23, 2026, in Burlington.

VI. Events Past and Planned for 2027

a. [Glimpses of Vermont's Past Project](#), Susan Evans McClure

- i. Susan Evans McClure shared a link to the *Times Argus* compilation from the "Glimpses of Vermont's Past Project." The project is a news column that features stories from Vermont's history each week.

b. Vermont State Historic Sites

- i. Hubbardton Battlefield, Mount Independence, and Chimney Point State Historic Sites are experiencing increased visitation due to 250th events. Visitation at Mount Independence is up 26% from

- 2024. Staff are looking into 2027 events at sites and how to boost them.
- ii. Bennington Monument will undergo archaeological investigation within Monument Circle in October. The work is expected to uncover the remains of the first county courthouse, tavern, printshop, and many other buildings around the monument. The location of the storehouse will hopefully be identified.
- c. Bennington 250th
 - i. Jonah Spivak shared the vision for 2027 Bennington 250th events. The community will be leaning heavily into the founding of Vermont, the Battle of Bennington, and the Vermont Constitution.
- d. Northern Department events can be found online at: <https://northerndepartment.org/events/>
- e. Other 250th Commemorations
 - i. UVM will be hosting “Religion and the American Founding” Conference on Friday, October 9. More information can be found [online](#).
 - ii. Andrew Whipple shared several of the initiatives undertaken by the Isle La Motte 250th Commission including informational kiosks, a driving tour, and Commemoration Day event. Many of their events were possible through the 250th grants available through VT Humanities.
 - iii. October 11 is the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Valcour Bay. The [Lake Champlain Maritime Museum](#) will be hosting free activities all day.
 - iv. This is Symphony Week, and Vermont Symphony Orchestra will be performing an original piece inspired by [Charity and Sylvia](#).
 - v. 2027 will also be the 80th anniversary of the Vermont Historic Roadside Marker program. A new Bennington Monument marker will be dedicated on Battle Day 2027 to coincide with both anniversaries.

VII. Committee Updates

- a. Admin/Financial
 - No recent meetings but will prepare signature event grant invitation and application.
- b. Marketing
 - Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing has produced one-pagers for homeschoolers, and commission should explore a similar document for 2027.

- c. Research/Culture
No updates.
- d. School/Teacher Outreach
Jonah Spivak shared that committee members will be attending VASS Conference again this December.

VIII. Adjourn

- a. 2026 Meeting Schedule
 - i. November 20, 2026
 - Moving to November 6, 2026
- b. 2027 Proposed Meeting Schedule
 - i. January 15, 2027
 - Moving to January 22, 2027
 - ii. March 19, 2027
 - iii. May 21, 2027
 - iv. July 16, 2027
 - v. September 17, 2027
 - vi. November 19, 2027 *CHANGE to December for close out?
- c. Meeting adjourned at 11:44am.