

Hartford 250th Commemoration Committee

Approved Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

1. Gwen Tuson welcomed the group to the first official meeting of the Hartford Town 250th Commemoration Committee and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. She read the Hybrid Meeting Script. **Present:** Committee members: Gwen Tuson, Earl Hatley, Dennis Brown, Patti Crimmin-Greenan, Linda Miller. Others: Matt Osborn, Pat Stark, Scott Davidson.

2. Public Comments: None

3. Review and accept the previous minutes from the most recent Hartford Historical Society's 250th Commemoration Committee with the following changes:

- Dennis Brown questioned the wording on Page 2 about the word "location"
- In the Port-a-potties section for Seniors. Spelling changed S eniors to Seniors.
- Banners – cross off "Theron Boyd" comment in the wording
- Matt Osborn's last name does not have an "e"
- Matt was listed as seconding a motion, but he could not have done so. Changed to Dennis Brown.
- There is no "e" at the end of Earl.

Dennis Brown moved that the minutes be accepted with the above corrections. Seconded by Patti Crimmin-Greenan. Motion carried.

4. Announcements:

- a. This is the first official meeting for the Town of Hartford 250th Commemoration Committee.
- b. Gwen informed group of the "Two Lights for Tomorrow" Event April 18 & 19 commemorating the 250th anniversary of Paul Revere's ride.
- c. Linda announced that Castleton will be hosting an event on Friday May 9 at 6 pm to commemorate the Green Mountain Boys and the 250th anniversary of America's first victory on May 10, 1775.

5. Nominations and Election of Officers:

- Chairperson – Linda Miller nominated Gwen Tuson,
- Vice-chair – Patti Crimmin-Greenan nominated Dennis Brown.
- Clerk – Dennis Brown nominated Linda Miller.

It was moved that this proposed slate be accepted, and the vote was unanimous.

6. Rules of Order. Discussion to adopt Martha's Rules of Order. Dennis Brown asked that we include in the usual meeting agenda the option to add to the agenda after the approval of previous minutes. Thumbs up vote taken and all approved adoption of Martha's Rules with this change.

7. Reports:

Publicity

- a. Gwen sent paperwork for the April 9 Hartford Historical Society Speaker Leo Tucker to the Vermont Historical Society for inclusion. **ACTION:** Gwen will check if she did the same for the Fashion of Colonial Times hosted by the Hartford Library for June 23rd. She will send paperwork for the Abenaki Garden Public tour slated for 8/23. Bugbee Senior Center will handle the publicity for their group which is tentative for 8/21 or 8/22. The Abenaki Garden tour for the P&R Venture

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Camp kids is slated for 8/11, but this will not be publicized as it is only for the Venture Camp children.

- b. Gwen will contact JAM for their assistance with publicity.
- c. Matt Osborn informed the group that the Town of Hartford website will include a page for the 250th Commemoration and will link to the Hartford Historical Society page. The Town has an employee who will help with publicity.
- d. Banners –Discussed the five options presented by Dennis Brown (see attached). The group chose the option on the far left with the American Flag and royal blue background. The group discussed count needed, and decided on 10 banners. The cost per banner is \$105 and the brackets are \$65, but downtown already has some brackets so there will be some cost saving. Scott Davidson mentioned the Chamber of Commerce plans to purchase one banner. Discussed timeline for ordering the banners. **ACTION:** We need to decide where to place the banners, get on the Selectboard agenda for approval and get permits and permission to use poles and have more details to present at the next meeting.

Parks and Recreation Department/Youth

- a. Gwen stated the Abenaki Garden Tour for 8/11 for Ventures Campers. Also, the Ventures Camp will have History Week during the week of July 4th. The children will have the opportunity to opt into events such as print making or rifle exhibition etc.
- b. Gwen continues to work with Izzy Provoncha to get activities into the schools.

Ceremonies

- a. Dennis met with Post 26 as well as Dennis Backus, the Commander of the Veterans Council, to support holding the Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 26th. He has attempted to contact the VFW Post 2571, but so far there has been no response.
- b. Dennis mentioned that he and Pat Stark may be working on including Samuel Pingree, former Governor and citizen of Hartford, in a ceremony.
- c. Pat Stark mentioned that she has a list of the Revolutionary War veterans and the cemeteries in which they are buried.

Presentations/Places

- a. Theron Boyd Open House – Pat Stark stated that she had received an email from Laura Trieschmann, the Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer, indicating that the property did not appear to sustain damage in the recent floods. Linda reached out to Jonathan Schechtman as he apparently has taken the lead in getting permission from the State for us to host an Open House. Jonathan has been away, so has not responded. **ACTION:** Linda will try again to confirm if he has heard from the State.
- b. DAR Display of Revolutionary War Veterans – Gwen stated that the display had been placed only in the Quechee/Wilder library and is DAR member Becky Book stated to Gwen a smaller version can be recreated since the original photos were given to the families. **ACTION:** Linda will connect with Becky Book to see if this can happen.
- c. Abenaki Garden Tours – Planning is almost complete. Gwen and Earl just need to finish the Release Sheets and order Port-a-potties.

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Community

- a. Patti Crimmin-Greenan has reached out to Nadine Hodgdon, Hartford Librarian, since they have so many events planned.
- b. Linda informed the group that West Hartford Library Direction Sandie Cary is interested in hosting a holiday table centerpiece making event in December.
- c. Patti found out that the Bennington Monument is closed until April, but is working on getting a bus for the Bugbee Senior Center. Bus service was discussed. Patti also stated that Mark Bradley, the Executive Director of the Bugbee Senior Center is willing to attend our meeting if needed.

Finance

- a. Gwen presented current financial resources. Funding for various activities will depend on who is hosting the activity. Some identified funding sources include Parks & Recreation, Hartford Historical Society, various libraries, the leftover 2011 funds, and the Vermont 250th Community Planning Grant sponsored by Vermont Covered awarded to the Hartford Historical Society. Gwen has also started to list upcoming expenses including stipends, port-a-potties, craft supplies, bands and other music.

8. Old Business

- a. Update on Town 250th Committee Appointments. Linda Miller was officially appointed to this Committee on Tuesday, March 18. We still need two more members. **ACTION:** Linda will reach out to Jonathan Schechtman to gauge his interest. We must keep in mind that there cannot be more than two members from the Hartford Preservation Commission on this Committee.
- b. Matt Osborn reminded the group not to use "Reply All" for discussion purposes in an email as that would violate the Vermont open meeting law.

9. New Business

- a. Gwen's Valley News Opinion Editorial. Since Gwen has been identified as the Chair, and this is a Selectboard appointed Committee, we need to be cautious about the wording if Gwen is to sign this as representing the Committee. Even if she does not sign as the Committee Chair, she will be identified as thus by the Valley News. Following discussion all agreed with a thumbs up vote that the shortened version of the message is okay. Matt asked Gwen to send him the final draft so he could run it by Planning and Development Director Lori Hirshfield. **ACTION:** Gwen will send Matt the requested document and await approval from Lori Hirshfield.

10. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 23rd at 5:30 pm at the Town Hall.

11. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Simon Miller
Clerk