

Hartford Town 250th Commemoration Committee
Approved Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 27, 2025

1. Vice Chair Dennis Brown called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Present: Patti Crimmin-Greenan, Matt Osborn, Dennis Brown, Linda Miller, Scott Davison. On phone: Earl Hatley and Marge Brown.
2. Public Comments – none
3. Reviewed minutes from July 23 and August 11, 2025. **See attached minutes.** No corrections or comments on the 7/23 minutes which were accepted as presented. For the 8/11 minutes Dennis pointed out that the last sentence on page one was missing something. The sentence was changed to “Earl described how things went downhill from the time of that collaboration.
4. Any items to add to the agenda? None
5. Announcements
 - 5.1. Any agenda items to prioritize early in meeting? Matt needs to leave by 6:25 pm.
6. **Reports:**
 - 6.1. *Publicity*
 - 6.1.1. Banners – Dennis has made very slow progress on this. He approached town staff including John Haverstock, Lori Hirshfeld and the Selectboard. They asked to change the banner to make it clear that the name of Hartford is prominent. Dennis had three examples. The consensus was to have “Hartford Commemorates 250 America” as the final version for the banner. Dennis mentioned there will be no extra charge for the change. **ACTION:** Dennis will ask for a final mockup and show it to the Town staff. Scott suggested that the “America” font should be in white to stand out. Others agreed.
 - 6.1.2. Abenaki Open House August 30. Earl stated that Quechee Lakes has done a lot of publicity. Vermont Law School is helping. Earl has done some interviews, and JAM will be there on Saturday. Plan of the day is for Earl to do introductions. Brian Kelly, General Manager for Quechee Lakes, will speak as well as the QLLA Equality, Equity and Inclusion Council members. There are many volunteers who will lead tours if there is a large crowd. If the group is not too large, then Earl will lead tours. A port-a-potty is all set. Earl has a pop-up tent, but Linda will bring another. **ACTION:** Linda will check with Gwen to see if she has found a water cooler. If not, Linda will contact P&R. Linda will let Earl know the outcome of that conversation. Matt Osborn will post notice on the Hartford List Serv and the Town of Hartford Facebook page. Linda will post on the Hartford Historical Society Facebook page.
 - 6.2. *Presentations/Places*
 - 6.2.1. Update on Hartford Historical Society events – Linda reported that Mary Nadeau is having an extremely difficult time finding speakers to talk about 250th themes. We had already noted in the July minutes that she did not have an Hartford Historical Society speaker for September and November related to the 250th so Gwen has removed these from the Timeline. For September she had to resort to having Steve Taylor talk about what the term “Upper Valley” means and how it came about. Linda asked Scott Davison if he might be willing to speak at the November 12 meeting, and he will consider this. Linda gave Scott the contact information for Mary Nadeau. An alternative will be George Miller and Judy Barwood (she attended the one room schoolhouse on Christian Street) giving a presentation at the Jericho Schoolhouse even though the schoolhouse was built in the mid-1800s. It might be interesting to bring people into the one room schoolhouse and share how education changed from the 1770 to the present day. We still need a speaker for April.
 - 6.2.2. On July 24th, John Haverstock waived the fees for 250th committee to make copies to complete research needed for tour of 18th century buildings still standing in Hartford for the 250th commemoration should we decide to pick this up again in 2026. Matt suggested he could review the property photos at the Listers Office to see if it is worth pursuing for the tour. **ACTION:** Linda will send Matt the list of properties provided by Pat Stark from the Historical Society.

Community

6.2.3. Linda Miller report on library events. The three librarians have been communicating well. Laura Abrahamsen from Quechee reported that Quechee is hosting Erin Moulton in Quechee at 1:30 pm for her memoir writing workshop "Back in My Day" and then over in Wilder at 6:00 pm for a genealogy presentation on Cemetery Sleuthing on Wednesday June 3, 2026. Arlene Bettigole is scheduled for Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at 6 pm at the Wilder Club and Library to present her talk on 18th Century Medicinal and Culinary Herbs. She indicated that she will be in period costume. Arlene did a similar presentation for the Parks and Recreation Department Ventures campers.

Nadine from the Hartford Library is hoping to host a US History and/or VT History Trivia night. I suggested to all of the librarians that they should do the same in their buildings. She stated that Gaylord Newcity, who did Trivia Night in Hartford in the past, expressed interest in doing it again and Nadine will talk with the other two librarians about this.

This is what Harford Library has done or is doing to date:

- Colonial Fashion Program for adults presented by Ren Antoniowicz from Spirits of Fashion on June 23rd at 6:30 at the Cornerstone Community Center.
- A bingo reading challenge during the summer of 2025. Participants earned prizes by reading from the list of books about the Revolution and Vermont history during that time period, attending related library programs, and completing other activities.
- Our adult book discussion group will focus on related books for their discussions during the summer of 2025 and beyond.
- Books will be purchased to add to the library's collection using memorial funds from the Bettis and Bando families.
- The children's Reading Club will focus on Revolutionary and Colonial times during the fall and winter of 2025/2026.

Sandie Cary, West Hartford Library is planning to do a gallery of pictures in a 'then and now' format in the library which she is hoping to work on next month. She also liked the idea of a trivia night. They may do holiday decorating such as holiday decorating event (similar to the greenery decorating done at the Hartford Library with Pat Cook) and make pomanders of oranges and cloves. Might be very messy, but they may string popcorn and cranberries or make paper garlands for younger kids after Thanksgiving.

6.2.4. Report of any planning with Bugbee Senior Center. Patti reported that the 1000-piece puzzle of the Constitution was completed in 9 days. The plan is to have it glued and framed. Also, Susan Manley was going to advertise the Abenaki Garden Tour. Patti plans a talk about "What Does the 250th Commemoration Mean..." card. **ACTION:** Scott will send Patti the revised version.

7. Old Business

7.1. Still two places on Committee to fill – Matt stated these openings are on the Hartford Listserv and Hartford newsletter.

7.2. Timeline and update events left to plan, spring and summer 2026 goals.

7.2.1. The Alumni Association may plan for one more Alumni Day Parade. Linda Miller stated that the 2025 Parade had just two floats and so the Alumni Association Board will meet to decide if there will be a 2026 Parade. The hope is that they will have this one last Parade to Commemorate the 250th before they stop hosting Alumni Day.

7.2.2. Update on the Sugar House Open House Abenaki information sheet. Earl described the history of maple sugaring and said there is a book by Jesse Brushak with the story. **ACTION:** Scott Davison has the book and will share it with the group with appropriate credit given to the author. Earl can add that this is what has been taught ever since. Earl will also ask John Moody for input.

8. New Business

8.1. The meetings scheduled for Nov and Dec 2026 may not be needed since the libraries seems to be well on the way in programming. Also the 4th Wednesday of the month doesn't work due to holidays.

ACTION: We will make a final decision at the next meeting whether these two meetings are needed.

9. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, October 22 at 5:30p

10. Linda Miller moved to adjourn. Seconded by Earl and Patti. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Simon Miller