

Hartford Town 250th Commemoration Committee
Approved Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 22, 2025

1. Gwen Tuson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Committee Members Present: Gwen Tuson, Linda Miller, Patti Crimmin-Greenan, Dennis Brown. Non-Committee: Matt Osborn, Scott Davison.
2. Public Comments - none
3. Review, amend as needed, and accept minutes from September 24, 2025. **See attached minutes.** Patti Crimmin-Greenan moved to approve as written. Dennis Brown seconded. Motion carried.
4. Any items to add to the agenda? Gwen will give an updated financial report. Under *Publicity* we need to update calendars.
5. Announcements
 - 5.1. Any agenda items to prioritize early in meeting? None
 - 5.2. Earl is unavailable due to the delayed start time of this meeting.
6. Reports:
 - 6.1. Financial
 - 6.1.1. Fundraising message to give to Scott Hausler. Gwen asked the group what to report back to Scott Hausler regarding any plans for fundraising. It was decided that we do not have the skills or energy to solicit donations. If Gwen gets the energy in the future, she will offer to do some fundraising. We did get \$120 from the dance. **ACTION:** Gwen will relay this to Scott Hausler.
 - 6.1.2. One-year Financial Report - In October 2024, the Hartford Historical Society transferred the Mascoma Bank Savings Account from the 2011 Hartford 250th Commemoration to the 250th Committee. On April 15, the Committee received a \$1,000 Vermont Communities Grant and transferred \$6,637.78 (including accumulated interest) to a new Mascoma Bank Checking account. Activity since May 2025 includes:

Income:

\$120	Deposit from Country Dance donations
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Expenses:

\$16.50	Hartford 250 th publicity banner printed at Staples
\$5.70	Abenaki Garden posters printed at Gnomon Copy
\$1,164	Brass Street Band for July 4, 2026 deposit
\$200	Allard's for Abenaki Garden port-a-potties
\$1.00	Mascoma Bank checks
\$1,200	Country Dance caller and musicians
\$1,317.59	10 vinyl <i>Hartford Commemorates America's 250th</i> banners & 2 brackets
\$2,852.99	Cash on hand as of 10/15/2025

Planned expenditures for May 2026 Encampment include:

\$600	Port-a-potties (3 at \$200 each)
\$500	Stipend for 25 people at \$20 per person.

Planned expenditures for July 4, 2026 include:

\$1,164	Final payment for Brass Street Band (if not paid by Town).
~\$450	One night stay for band members at Hotel Coolidge (already booked)

Cash on hand of \$2,852.99 minus total planned expenditures of ~\$2,714 leaves ~\$138.99. Dennis moved that any remaining funds be returned to the Hartford Historical Society. Linda seconded. Motion carried.

Follow-up from Gwen Tuson: Shipping amount for banners has increased but no final shipping amount is yet known for the banner brackets. Final cash on hand balance will be less than the report.

6.2. Publicity

- 6.2.1. 10 Vinyl *Hartford Commemorate America's 250th* Banners – arrived today and Dennis will put them up ASAP and they will remain up until after July 4, 2026. No approval yet from Green Mountain Power to use their poles in Wilder and Quechee. Discussed placing them at the intersection of North Main/Currier Street, in front of the Hartford Historical Society, one at the end of the Hartford Village Bridge. We would like to have some in each village so discussed asking Jim Dow to come up with a bracket so they could be hung on the Quechee Library, West Hartford Library and Wilder Library buildings, perhaps one near the Bugbee Senior Center. Scott Davison suggested hanging inside at the Quechee Mall. **ACTION:** Dennis will do some research on poles available and ask Jim Dow about hanging brackets for the buildings. Scott will recheck with the Chamber of Commerce and the Army Corp of Engineers to see if one could hang outside the Chamber building in Quechee.
- 6.2.2. Gwen stated the 250th activities are listed on two different calendars – one on the Hartford Historical Society website and one on the Town website. We need to ensure that events are on both sites.
- 6.2.3. Scott Davison suggested contacting *The Valley News* to do an article on the Hartford 250th Committee since it appears we are a unique Town Committee in the Upper Valley. **ACTION:** Linda will contact reporter Liz Sauchelli to ask if she could do a story.

6.3. P&R/Youth

- 6.3.1. Veterans Day coloring contest – Gwen received word from Tatum Barnes that the contest is up, but there is nothing online that she can find except the Holiday Coloring Contest is on the website. **ACTION:** Gwen sent another clarification email to ask Tatum where the contest can be found. Dennis will ask Margaret, Parks and Rec Admin Asst, to post on website and Facebook page, and he will send it to the libraries.
Follow-up from Gwen Tuson: The on-line posting for the coloring contest was up on a separate webpage for Hartford Parks and Recreation, not the Town of Hartford webpage.
- 6.3.2. Encampment May 30, 2026 – without P&R working with us on publicity, this will fail. Gwen is feeling very discouraged about pulling off the encampment. Gwen sent an email to Izzy Provoncha asking for his feedback on planning this event. We will need to complete a form to use Kilowatt Field as one step in the process. Gwen is hoping to enlist Phil Sargent's help. Gwen was hoping to have other displays at the encampment such as Abenaki history. **ACTION:** Gwen has it on her to do list to create the flyer and have the publicity set up for the Spring/Summer P&R Bulletin.
- 6.3.3. July 4, 2026, Activities – Need to think about possible speakers. **ACTION:** Gwen will send an invitation to Peter Welch. Photo Art Show – Scott spoke about a photo interpretation of "What the 250th of America Means to Me". This would take a lot of collaboration with P&R. Perhaps display at the Wilder Clubhouse. **ACTION:** Discuss at January meeting.

6.4. Ceremonies

- 6.4.1. Veterans Day is Tuesday, November 11 at 10 am. Dennis and Gwen have not met with Denis Backus since the last meeting to discuss the program. Dennis went to the Veterans Council meeting last month, and there was a person willing to help with the Drill and Ceremony. Dennis has emailed Dennis Backus multiple times to plan ceremony specifics but has not heard back. Dennis did some research on what to say at the geese,

WWI/WWII monuments, the flagpole on Town Hall. Dennis reported that the VFW post has folded. **ACTION:** Dennis will continue to try to arrange a meeting with Dennis and Gwen ASAP to plan the program.

6.4.2. Scott mentioned that there is an interpretation of the “gun talk” which discusses the weapon, but goes on to state that people have lost the meaning of the gun. **ACTION:** Scott will write this up and can be used at the Hartford Historical Society.

6.4.3. Memorial Day 2026 – There will be the dedication of the Post WWII – 2025 Monument.

6.5. Presentations/Places

6.5.1. Sugar House Open House and Abenaki information – to be held on the weekend of March 21/22, 2026. **ACTION:** Scott will work on drafting a document including the Abenaki history that can be printed by each sugar maker and handed out that weekend. This date needs to be sent to the two on-line calendars.

6.5.2. 4th graders came to the Hartford Historical Society as part of their Hartford history unit. They completed the Revolutionary era Bingo and did a partial tour of the exhibits.

6.6. Community

6.6.1. Library events – Linda will follow up with the Librarians on what they are doing including dates for the proposed trivia nights, but the following is a report of planned activities for the *Early American Village Christmas*, which is scheduled for Saturday, December 6th from 1:00-6:00 p.m.:

- 1:00-3:00 p.m. - Hartford Historical Society Open House with Revolutionary Era Bingo, pomander making and hand out candy.
- 1:00-4:30 p.m. - Hartford Library - snacks and wassail punch. Activities will be paper chain making, popcorn stringing, story time and centerpiece making.
- 2:00-3:00 p.m. – Dismas House will have a craft activity
- 3:00-4:30 p.m. – Community Center – cocoa, caroling and tree lighting
- 4:30-5:15 p.m. – Hartford Church Bell Ringers
- 5:15-6:00 p.m. – free soup supper in the Church Hall.

The next meeting is planned for Monday, November 3rd at 4:00 p.m. at the Hartford Library.

6.6.2. Wrap up on Family Dance held on October 3rd at the Wilder Clubhouse and Library. It was a wonderful event. David Millstone outdid himself by taking the group through dance history. Attended by about 40 people.

6.6.3. Update on Bugbee Senior Center – The Declaration of Independence and Constitution puzzles have been framed and will be hung soon. Unfortunately, the flag puzzle was taken apart.

7. Old Business

7.1. Committee openings – leave on until January meeting.

7.2. Collaboration with City of Lebanon 250th events. Gwen spoke with Brian Ware at length by phone and sent the summary of our plans she created for the grant. He liked involving the libraries. He has spoken with Lebanon Parks and Recreation Department about having collaboration of the fireworks at the Lyman Bridge. Dennis liked the idea of collaborating with Lebanon. Gwen has left future planning with Brian Ware and perhaps the Lebanon and Hartford Parks and Recreation Departments. Patti spoke with Ann Greenwald from the Lebanon Opera House who seemed quite excited to become involved. Patti gave Ann Brian's name. **ACTION:** If Lebanon events are planned, we will include on our calendar.

7.3. Goals for rest of 2025, spring and summer 2026 goals. **ACTION:** Gwen will compile a to-do list of things we hope to do before our January meeting and distribute via email.

8. Next Meeting – Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 5:30-7:00 p.m.
9. Adjournment – Patti Crimmin-Greenen moved to adjourn. Linda seconded. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Simon Miller