

**Hartford Town 250th Commemoration Committee**  
**Draft Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, June 18th, 2026**

Present: Linda Miller, Dennis Brown, Patti Crimmin-Greenan, Gwen Tuson

1. Gwen called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. Public Comments - None
3. Review, amend as needed, and accept minutes from May 19, 2026.
4. Any items to add to the agenda? None
5. Announcements
  - 5.1. Any agenda items to prioritize early in meeting? None
6. Reports
  - 6.1. Financial – Hartford Parks and Recreation Department paid for the porta potty at the Living History Event. We received \$308 in donations. We no longer must pay for the hotel for the band due to a conflict they have with needing to be in New Jersey by 10:00 a.m., so Gwen proposed paying the whole amount due to come from the 250<sup>th</sup> Committee rather than Parks and Recreation Department paying for half. No decision was made on this. Linda suggested giving residual funds to the Hartford Historical Society to hold for future 250<sup>th</sup> Commemorations.
  - 6.2. Publicity
    - 6.2.1. Banners – All agreed that they look great in Wilder. Dennis will remove the *Hartford Commemorates America's 250<sup>th</sup>* banners by Veterans Day. Linda suggested one be donated to the Hartford Historical Society. Members of this Committee may wish to have one each. The Vermont Historical Society 250<sup>th</sup> feather banner worked well at the Block Party yesterday. It will be great to have it available on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.
    - 6.2.2. Calendar postings – Linda has posted on all Facebook pages as well as *The Valley News* Events pages. Gwen will add information about the new book for the book club at Hartford Library to the calendar. Gwen mentioned the Hood Museum has an ongoing great exhibit with 250<sup>th</sup> memorabilia going through the fall.
  - 6.3. Parks & Recreation/Youth
    - 6.3.1. Fourth of July – Saturday.
      - Since The Street Beat Band cannot stay overnight. Gwen offered to make burgers for the band before they leave town. Linda made a motion for Gwen to spend up to \$100 to feed the band. Patti seconded. Motion carried.
      - Scott Hausler is working on an Air Force flyover.
      - Street Beat Band is scheduled to play from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., The Connipion Fits will play from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.
      - Joe Major and Becca White will speak at the event. Gwen plans to send a letter to the speakers to have the celebration be bipartisan and celebratory. Dennis suggested that Gwen do a short wrap-up speech on the events this Committee has put on. Remind people of the upcoming 250<sup>th</sup> events coming up.

- 250<sup>th</sup> cards can be hung on a clothesline. Patti will donate some twine. Have the MC or speakers announce some of the responses and direct people to read them.

#### 6.4. Ceremonies

- 6.4.1. Memorial Day 2026 Wrap-up – Dennis stated that it couldn't have gone any better. Positive feedback. The Junction Arts Media (JAM) video is wonderful and is available on JAM's YouTube channel. The Monument Committee's residual funds went back to the Hartford Historical Society to create another placard to add future names to the monument as well as to the Hartford Parks & Rec for maintenance and future projects in Veterans Park.

#### 6.5. Presentations/Places

- 6.5.1. Living History Day Wrap-up – From Gwen via email after the meeting:  
We had 70 adults, 30 youth Saturday and 43 adults, 15 youth on Friday. We had seven reenactors representing at least six different military units: loyalists, Virginia rifleman, British grenadier, American militia, British infantry, and American continental army. Visitor donations to the HHS from that event totaled \$308. There was lots of interest in Hartford Historical Society and the historic districts. Visitors came from Windsor, Hanover, all over Hartford, and even Plainfield, NH, and probably other towns too. Hartford Schools did not participate, but we had students from Sharon and the Wilder School.

#### 6.6 Community

##### 6.6.1 Library events –

- Erin Moulton presented two events.
- Arlene Bettigole will speak about 18<sup>th</sup> Century Medicinal & Culinary Herbs at the Wilder Clubhouse on Wednesday, July 1. Gwen volunteered our Committee to assist the library with setting up, locking up, and whatever the library needs help with. Gwen, Patti and Dennis volunteered to help set up and take down.
- West Hartford has a pictorial display about West Hartford.
- Hartford Library will discuss "The Greatest Sentence Ever Written by Walter Isaacson" at the next monthly book discussion meeting on Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

##### 6.6.2 Update to Bugbee Senior Center – none to report.

##### 6.6.3 Alumni Parade/Picnic – Patti and Mark will have their truck to represent this Committee, and Dennis will let Cherrie Torrey know that he and Mary Kay will have a tractor and a jeep to represent the Hartford Historical Society as well as the 250<sup>th</sup>.

#### 7. Old Business - none

#### 8. New Business - none

#### 9. Final meeting to wrap up.

- Topics are finances as well as future 250<sup>th</sup> Commemorations:
  - First Vermont Constitution was adopted in Windsor, Vermont, July 8, 1777.
  - End of War October 19, 1781.

- Constitution signed by Constitutional Convention attendees September 17, 1787.  
(added after the meeting by Gwen)
- Constitution was formerly enacted when ratified by ninth state (New Hampshire) June 21, 1788.
- Vermont joined the Union as 14<sup>th</sup> State March 4, 1791.
- As we look ahead to disbanding this Committee, Dennis suggested that we give a summary to the Selectboard, and we should have our 250<sup>th</sup> Committee Report in the 2027 Town Report. Dennis suggested that we have a group picture as well.
- Gwen would like to evaluate our efforts to provide a helpful blueprint and historical record for future committees organizing similar large-scale town events. We plan to include this evaluation as part of our committee's official submission for the 2027 Town Report. Gwen reviewed our committee's mission and purpose to consider:
  - **Purpose:** To plan, encourage, develop, coordinate, and promote observances and activities in Hartford commemorating the US Semiquincentennial, the Revolutionary War, the founding of Vermont, and the creation of America's political foundations.
  - **Mission:** To engage the Hartford community through programs, projects, and events; inspire future leaders; celebrate Vermonters' contributions to the nation; and encourage residents and visitors to learn from our history to build stronger communities for the future.
- Our final meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 10 at 4:00 p.m.  
(changed to 5:00 p.m. post-meeting by Gwen)

10. Linda made a motion to adjourn. Dennis seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Simon Miller