



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
America250 Coordinating Committee**

**Thursday, February 27, 2025, 6:00pm
Enfield Room, Enfield Town Hall**

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ken Nelson Jr at 6:01pm.
Roll call – Alex Ranniello, Chris Fontaine, Emily Clifford, Maya Nicole Matthews, Shannon Esslinger, Ian Graves, Cindy Mangini, Cindy Kinney, Lori Unghire, Kelly Davis, Aaron Marcavitch (Director of Economic & Community Development/Staff to Committee). Cindy Erksine was available via video conference, but left by 6:15pm
2. Nominations for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary -
Motion to nominate Cindy Kinney for Chair made by Chris Fontaine, Seconded by Emily Clifford. All in favor. (Mayor Nelson departed at this time.)

Motion to nominate Chris Fontaine for Vice Chair made by Emily Clifford, Seconded by Cindy Kinney. All in favor.

Motion to nominate Shannon Esslinger for Secretary made by Emily Clifford, Seconded by Alex Ranniello. All in favor.
3. Establishing schedule for meetings – Chair Kinney asked Director Marcavitch for details on the potential schedule. He noted the minimum meeting times and the sunset date for the committee (December 31, 2026). The committee consensus was to accept a monthly schedule on the 4th Thursday of the month at 6pm.
4. Understanding the relationship with the Town of Enfield and other partners – Chair Kinney asked Director Marcavitch to explain how the Committee will work within the Town structure. He provided a detailed explanation about the process, including discussions about a lack of budget, the need to be collaborative, work with other town commissions and offices, and possibly make a recommendation to the Town Council about any needed action items. The committee brainstormed some potential partners including the Rotary, Lions, Opera House Players, VFW, Legion, Historical Society, Scantic Watershed Society, Hazardville Institute, and Chamber of Commerce. There was also a brief discussion about sponsorships and how that might work.
5. Understanding the Goals of the State of Connecticut & Federal America250 programs – Chair Kinney asked Director Marcavitch to explain the relationship to state and Federal America250 programs. He provided an explanation of the existing programs and their themes. The committee will need to look for projects that meet this theme. The committee discussed the need for marketing and possibly a logo or branding. This would tie into the state marketing efforts.

6. Goal Setting Discussion – Chair Kinney asked the committee to provide their potential goals, projects, and targeted partners. The committee went around the room and discussed some of these items.

Chris Fontaine explained the details of the July 4th program, which will be on July 12-13, 2026. The goal of their organization is to raise funds to support this effort – which has lost money in the last few years. Maya Nicole Matthews provided input on the parade which will include “eras” of Enfield history, and she has a long list of contacts.

Kelly Davis and Cindy Mangini both discussed the DAR work as well as the Abby monument. The DAR has developed bookmarks with local important people from history.

Emily Clifford discussed the Community Choir and how it was formed during the bicentennial. She hoped they could put on a patriotic concert and/or participate in local events. She also hoped to see the committee pull together a website and social media to promote the events.

Alex Ranniello discussed the idea of a 5K and how we could use that as a “prelude” to the overall program. He also touched on the importance of public art and murals.

Shannon Esslinger discussed the idea of increasing access to sites and history. This included a discussion about archives and using the Connecticut History Day program in the schools.

At this point, the committee started to discuss involving veterans and youth groups – including at the 4th of July parade and the Memorial Day parade. They also discussed Wreaths across America and connecting with the Senior Center. The committee discussed having a youth art program and how to best engage schools – including sending flyers home with students. Finally, they also discussed a “branded” wine or spirit that could be made by a local maker.

Director Marcavitch brought up ideas about coordinating with the surrounding towns. He noted that the state would likely be developing an exhibit and this committee might want to work to develop pop up exhibits that could go to schools or public spaces. He also noted that he would be coordinating with the police and schools.

For major next steps, the committee asked Director Marcavitch to develop a joint calendar that can be used for tracking with information about partners, needs, and themes. They also requested a “google drive” with materials and a shared ideas sheet.

7. Potential Projects Discussion – See above
8. Targeted Partners Discussion – See above
9. Adjourn – Motion to adjourn was made by Cindy Mangini at 7:32pm. Seconded by Chris Fontaine. All in favor.