



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
America250 Coordinating Committee**

**Thursday, April 24, 2025, 6:00pm
Enfield Room, Enfield Town Hall**

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by at 6:01pm by Chris Fontaine, Vice Chair
2. Roll call – Chris Fontaine, Alex Ranniello, Emily Clifford, Maya Nicole Matthews, Shannon Esslinger, Cindy Kinney, Kelly Davis, Aaron Marcavitch (Director of Economic & Community Development/Staff to Committee). Also in attendance was William Fournier (Enfield Historical Society) and Pam Baldini (DAR).
3. Approval of Minutes- Motion to approve by Chris Fontaine, Seconded by Maya Nicole Matthews. All in favor.
4. State America 250 Updates – Aaron Marcavitch opened with updates of the town acquiring and displaying the two lanterns and followed up on emails shared with commission members regarding the statewide 250 map, which shares events and points of interest among all municipalities involved. The Give 250 CT fundraising program was discussed. The state is encouraging participating organizations to focus on local in town fundraising for events. The state also requested the presence of a commission member from each town to participate in the Hartford Fourth of July Parade.
5. Conversation about potential projects and targeted sponsors - The Thomas Abbey monument was discussed and that a descendant of Abbey would like to assist in the restoration of the project regarding cleaning and repairing the foundation. Aaron made note that the foundation has extra historical significance as it was built by architectural firm McKim, Mead & White.

Aaron brought in a flier from minister Greg Gray of the 1970 town bicentennial to show the commission to incentivize “digging into history”.

Bill Fournier of the Enfield Historical Society presented member with information on the Drums of Independence, with a depiction of one which is seen on the Enfield Police Department patches, as well as a poem “The Captain’s Drum, A Tradition of Enfield, April 20, 1775.” Bill also discussed window decals for America 250 sponsors and to help to fundraise and support the history of Thomas Abbey.

Pamela Baldini from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) discussed wanting to do a lecture on Paul Revere’s ride. The Enfield Public Library required insurance, so she was not able to do her presentation at that time. Emily invited her to attend an Enfield Culture and Arts meeting to discuss her lecture and what they can assist her with through them. Other ideas brought up by Pamela were a Revolutionary War themed escape room, Cindy Recommended reaching out to Powder Hollow, Bill Fournier recommended the historical society. She also suggested a publicly accessible site to allow the residents of Enfield to write

in on their personal and family history of the town, and how to proofread all entries when submitted, then accessible to the public digitally, and would like to submit it to the town library.

Aaron mentioned a digital time capsule. Maya informed members that the 1976-time capsule is due to be dug up next year (2026) and that the commission should hold an event that day.

Aaron updated members on the status of the town allowing canons and black powder for reenactors on town property, and that it was submitted to finance and insurance. He mentioned reaching out to the schools to “adopt a historical figure” project, where each school will research their school’s namesake or someone of town importance. Also discussed was a schedule for draft of events, and making suggestions a reality or if they need to be taken off the list. Members need to see what they want to take on and assign themselves to activities. Three lectures and four events minimum, setting the July fourth celebrations as the bookmarks is the goal.

The Purple Heart Program is being sent to the Veterans Commission

Emily led the discussion pertaining to the commission website and logo. She arranged for the logo to be designed by an already existing vendor with the town to design the logo with the town and commission having all ownership rights to the logo. Members agreed on 3-4 rough sketches before preapproval of the final logo. Logo sizes will be dependent upon the budget. Emily will look into a time estimate for the logo so the commission can look into shirts for members to be worn at events.

Chris brought up the budget and encouraged transparency. All members agreed. Aaron informed us that Economic and Community Development will fund the two lanterns and the logo, but the commission’s purpose is to utilize town organizations and local partnerships to encourage community involvement to put on events as the purpose is to get the whole town involved. Chris mentioned title sponsors for each event, much like the Fourth of July festival and concerts.

6. Setting up Events - The commission revisited event ideas and groups to involve. Emily plans to reach out to the Enfield Community Chorus and band. Bill Fournier may have a drummer for the Abbey commemoration. Alex discussed hosting events at the Fairfield Inn and possibly reaching out to partner with Powder Hollow. Aaron will talk with Ian about Revolutionary reenactments and what would be needed. Cindy and Kelley discussed cemeteries and the soldier recognition there, as well as the grave of the unknown revolutionary soldier to be a focal point of interest. DAR agreed to take on constitution week. Alex will focus on ghost tours and a lecture, as well as look into historical significance around the Fairfield Inn property. Aaron brought up the 1812 War and grants for interpretive signs and to look into permanent legacy displays such as signs and witness stones. Other displays such as free-standing murals, art to be displayed in the town hall, photography contest, soldiers/veterans of Enfield banners, and displays of revolutionary war uniforms and asking the Suffield Historical Society to borrow a uniform from an Enfield Revolutionary war soldier were discussed.
7. Adjourn – Motion to adjourn was made by Chris Fontaine at 7:37pm. Seconded by Cindy Kinney. All in favor.