

Minutes
America's 250th Anniversary Committee
Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at 10:30am in the Town Clerk's Office

Attendance: Jim Dassatti, Kathleen Nutter, Todd Stewart, Therese Lounsbury

The meeting was called to order at 10:30am.

Work began on laying out a timeline of events and necessary tasks.

If we use "76 days" prior to the big event of July 4, 2026, we start the concentration on April 19, 2026 (historic date of Lexington & Concord) for decorating around the town and major travel routes.

- Placed several of the historic events on the timeline for reference, including Vermont Statehood and Wilmington charter.
- The best effort for a big parade would be to wait until Saturday, July 25, 2026, which is the reserved date for the Blueberry Festival Parade. Better chance at bands, Fife & Drum, etc., if we are not competing with others for July 4, 2026.
- Planning through November, start marketing and Press Releases in December 2024.
- March 2025 begin rolling exhibits with retractable banners and glass cased artifacts for local/state/national historic education (Barber House / OSEC / Memorial Hall / schools) and newspaper presence with articles and inserts.
- May 2025 through March 2026 – Historic Walking Tours, Village Stroll tie-ins, July 4th, flag swaps, speakers, trivia events, flag etiquette and lore, Lisle Hill event, architectural tour, cemetery tours, historical plays and movies, commemorative t-shirts and coins, Veterans Memorial Park tie-in (will it be ready for a dedication?), banner across VT Route 9 at center of town, encourage area businesses to be creative with menus, specials, commemorative products. Work toward 1-2 significant events per month.
- Labor Day weekend 2025 – Living History Event
- Create event to present homeowners with "76" in their E911 address with house markers (18 total)
- Possibility of re-printing some of the local /regional historical books & maps?

Budget Items:

\$200 for insert in Deerfield Valley News plus provide 3500 copies

Tasks:

Jim: parade design, budget, invitees; locked case for exhibits; press release

Todd: pricing and vendor options for retractable banners, t-shirts, coins

Therese: current grant application, review historic books in vault, ask about America 250 logo use, approach other organizations that could partner on events (Dover Historical – Jim, Chamber, Wilmington Works, OSEC- including glass case displays, Town of Dover, Town of Whitingham, libraries, schools, American Legion, Dover Gazebo – contact Eric Desrochers), create website presence

Kathleen: report back to Historical Society, research for exhibits

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 26 at 10:30am at the Town Clerk's Office.

Respectfully submitted by Therese Lounsbury 6/5/2024