

Minutes of Vermont 250 on Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Attendance: Kathleen Nutter, Jim Dassatti, Therese Lounsbury

Call to order at 10:30am in the Town Clerk's Office

Therese asked for changes to the minutes of January 8, 2025, and hearing none, declared them approved.

Banner Discussion:

Discussed and sketched the concept for the standup banners for three locations around town. Each banner to display a national, Vermont, and local concept for the Semiquincentennial. Banners are approximately 3-feet wide and just under 7-feet tall. The top portion would have a colorful header and Vermont 250 logo so that the written material and images fall at eye-range for the average person's height. We have a graphic designer to do the layout for us. Therese to create shared document that the committee can suggest images and matching text for. Kathleen will check with the Historical Society of Wilmington for use of the banners after the conclusion of our events for the 250th anniversary.

Brainstorm Speakers:

Where do we find them? Jim contacts, Mark Bushnell – seen in VT Digger, book authors, Vermont Humanities, "Lost Nation" screening, Vermont Historical Society, Windham County Historical Museum (Newfane), celebrate Vermont authors, Bennington Museum Library, Bennington Battle Monument (Mary Lou Chiotte?)

Public Meeting, Business Mailing, Partnership Meetings:

Therese had a productive meeting with Southern Vermont Deerfield Valley Chamber of Commerce and Wilmington Works on January 17, 2024 (Kathleen and Jim joined as well).

When we have a specific calendar to start sharing – we can create and send out a mailing to all businesses and to potential partnerships with groups/clubs.

Review Budget and Calendar:

Nothing new to report.

Committee Reports:

Kathleen reported that the Historical Society usually opens around mid-April for us to be able to do research and search for local images. She will reach out to Vermont Humanities for speakers/programs. There has been no response from the others that she has reached out to. The screening of Jay Craven's movie "Lost Nation" is this Friday. Kathleen was to speak in the morning about the America's 250 Field Trip contest, but screening time changed – will find another day to present to students at Twin Valley Middle High School.

Jim asked the group to look over the Wilmington Events Program Fund Application that he has written up. He also shared that he had run with the idea of the Town Crier and how we could have someone passing out Broadsheets about American Revolutionary issues current for that month of the calendar year. The sheets could also be available to businesses, the Chamber, the library, the Historical Society and Community Center. Need to budget for paper (\$25 per ream for parchment) and printing. Need to include a QR code to send the reader to our website information and full calendar of events. Could begin in March 2025. Jim shared one example of what it would look like.

Committee Tasks:

Kathleen reaching out to Vermont Humanities; checking on interest from our Historical Society for the banners after our events; rescheduling student presentation on America's 250 Field Trip.

Jim is considering artifacts for the displays to determine display cases needed for three locations; working on broadsheets; finalizing the Wilmington Events Program Fund Application.

Therese creating shared document for banner images and text; creating a DropBox to have somewhere for everyone to drop images to consider for the banners and displays in general; more budget and calendar work; find other partnership meetings to set up; pick coin design and house marker design.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 29, 2025, at 10:30am at Town Clerk's Office

Respectfully submitted by Therese Lounsbury 2/5/2025