



Concord 2025 Executive Committee
Events and Hospitality and Invitations Subcommittee
Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 7 pm
Harvey Wheeler Center, 1276 Main St, Concord, MA 01742

In-person Meeting

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk of Concord, a meeting of the Concord 2025 Executive Committee, Events and Hospitality and Invitations Subcommittee was held in the Clock Tower Room at the Harvey Wheeler Center on April 25, 2023.

Members Present: John Arena III and Tish Hopkins, Chairs, Michael Benn, Joe Palumbo, Secretary, Abby Myette, Michael Goodwin, KC Winslow, Molly Bergin, Anita Tekle, Laura Mullins,, NPS officials present were James Hollister

Meeting called to Order at 7:00 pm – A quorum being present.

1. Welcome and Introductions for combined committee meeting

2. Reviewed “Save the Date” Communication

The group set a DEADLINE to have all “Save the Dates” sent out by September 5, 2023. They discussed plan for distribution and gave minor feedback on the graphic to be sent. Getting on online application and way to ‘save your spot’/pre sign up was discussed. Also reconfirmed the need to get a good list of people to invite to encourage greater participation in the parade.

2. Discussion of Bridge Ceremony , Parade and Homecoming Event

Reviewed the most recent Patriots Day activities and discussed how we can strengthen and streamline activities in light of the larger celebrations in 2025.

Discussed the need to tighten the timeline of the bridge ceremony especially if there is a keynote speaker in 2025.

Debriefed the “late arriving crown forces” this year and how that impacted the overall timeline of the ceremony.

Discussed possible speakers and interest in a soloist and the timeline of invitations being sent out. The invitation to Amanda Gorman (poet) was going out within the week from the Concord250 Executive Committee.

Reviewed group desires for a broad mix of participants including floats as way to provide color, excitement and family/community engagement. Possible creation of themes to encourage participation and creativity.

Discussed the need for maintaining a safe and professional nature of the parade , reflective of the nature of the celebration while strengthening community focus and groups participation and creativity

Had an open discussion about way to lengthen parade route to allow for more spectators in 2025. Reviewed various routes taken in other years and how that impacted spectators and the overall parade experience. Parade pacing and the various placement of reviewing stand were noted. The team worked on recalling the 1975 Bicentennial and how the parade was structured that day.

John Arena (Events Committee Chair) agreed to create a DRAFT parade route for discussion that would address a longer route and placement of reviewing stands. Anita Tekle volunteered to investigate town archives to determine parade route followed in 1975.

Group expressed desire to create events “anyone could go to” and the need to keep no cost or low cost to encourage community participation that is inclusive and welcoming of all residents and visitors.

Discussed how Patriots Ball/ Homecoming Event is really a fun and casual event open to everyone and keeping the costs reasonable was an expectation. Suggested April 12, 2025 as a good date for it and to encourage people to stay for the “midnight stroll”.

Discussed the need for continued communication and cooperation between Events and Hospitality and that the next meetings would be held separately and then the groups would come back together for the following meeting

Hospitality would continue work on their FAQ for units and the Events would work further on parade route and bridge ceremony.

3. Meeting Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm
Minutes respectfully submitted,
Joe Palumbo