



## Concord 250: Community Participation Subcommittee

Minutes of the 2:00 pm May 27, 2025, Meeting at 158 Hill Street, Concord, MA

**Present:** Holly Cratsley, Chair; Nancy McJennett, Clerk; Faye Allen, Joe Zellner, Maynard Forbes, Radha Jalan, Molly Eberle, Court Booth (arr. 3:05), Polly Meyer, Kara Ebbutt, Jeanine Calabria, Fabiana Dowd **Absent:** Mardi Hutchinson

**The meeting was called to order** at 2:30 pm

**Minutes of the April 2025 meeting** were accepted as read.

**Executive Committee Updates:** (Polly attended in Holly's absence)

- **Holly will meet with Rob Munro to discuss** how to summarize the programs we organized: by topic? Chronologically? Holly welcomes feedback on the list she sent out and organizational suggestions.
- **Executive Committee** is in recap mode. 90% of funds were spent on public safety. The MBTA has yet to provide their ridership numbers, but current crowd estimate is 35-45,000 attendees.
- **Areas for improvements in future events:**
  - **A Transportation Subcommittee** is a necessity. Members of several committees, including ours, patched a system together at the 11th hour – not ideal. Capt. Goldman was very responsive and helpful throughout.
  - **No signage for inter-town bus.** The number one complaint of the day was about buses.
  - **No police came to the Concord Museum** to help manage cranky visitors looking for buses, despite repeated requests.
- **Good things:**
  - **The overall vibe – family friendly and chill.** No major protests, no serious medical incidents.
  - **The ambassadors** had a great time and enjoyed their role. Kudos to Court and Ray Andrews.
  - **The Block Party** – with kudos to Zannah, who made it happen
  - **The Wright Tavern Beer Garden**, which is scheduled to occur monthly, starting in June, into the fall.
- **The meeting agreed that the Town should do some of these things more than once a year:** Beer Garden, Block Party; close off streets for pedestrians.

## REVIEW

- **Flag Raising ceremony** was a success, even in the rain, with about 100 attendees. We'd love it to fly permanently, but that may be a cost issue for the Town Jeanine has some drone shots she will share with Polly.
- **4 Flags were added along Lexington Road** because the route changed.

- **Ambassadors were a huge plus** (see above). 204 volunteered and contributed 1250 hours – 90% said they would do it again. Added benefit of engaging other townspeople who weren't on a Concord250 committee. Wright Tavern was a great headquarters.
- **Block Party** was successful. Ours hosted 290 visitors. The volunteer staff from the Concord Players were amazing. Susan Tucker provided great lighting. Would love to do another event later this year.
- **Concord Gets Ready** hosted 5 workshops with over 250 people signing up to participate. National Charity League helped with 2 events. Art for All was also very helpful. 30-odd folks submitted photographs and Fabi won a prize!
- **Flowers everywhere:** All 3 garden clubs really stepped up. Town House, Monument Sq., and merchant flower boxes all came together and made a great impression. Not to mention the Post Office was painted just in time!
- **So many non-official people contributed:** Essay contest writers, students who painted the Revolutionary cut-out figures, TriCon put out chairs. Truly an event where the community participated in so many ways.
- **Future of Witness Flags.** We will thank the 47 (out of 75) homeowners who participated and encourage them to keep and use their flags. There is a 6-month window for use in the Historic District.
  - **Rein Beeuwkes** gathered 27 email addresses of historic house owners and wants to start a historic house association.
  - **Faye wants to make a historic house coffee table book** which Ryan Hanley of the Concord Museum supports. Would need to hire an architectural photographer. Maybe add the student essays to it.
  - **Quilt Show participants want to do a book** and will discuss at their next meeting. Ed Feathers, a professional photographer in W. Concord, photographed the show.

#### **Possible events for the next 12 months.**

- **Concord Players:** “Songs for the New World” in June
- **River event** might be happening on June 17. (Julia Kahorana)
- **Polly is seeking podcasters to talk about Concord250** if anyone is interested.
- **Giant lantern** will be traveling around town. Currently being stored in someone's backyard between gigs. Art for All coordinates lantern's schedule.
- **The Declaration of Independence signing anniversary** is next year.

**NEXT MEETING:** *No further meetings are scheduled at this time.*

**Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm**

Respectfully submitted, Nancy McJennett, Clerk pro-tem