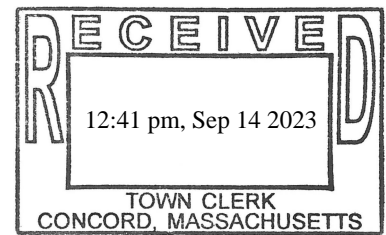


250th Celebration / Community Participation committee meeting
MINUTES
June 7, 2023
2:00 pm at Town House, Concord center



Present: Holly Cratsley (Chairperson), Court Booth, Molly Eberle, Julia Farwell-Clay, Maynard Forbes, Radha Jalan, Nancy McJennett, Polly Meyer, Joe Zellner

Holly called the meeting to order at 2:05pm

The minutes of the April 3, 2023 meeting were approved.

Intercommunity Committee – report by Holly

This 4-town committee (Concord, Lincoln, Lexington, Arlington) met last week

- All April 2025 parades will be on Sat., April 19 (not on Marathon Monday)
- Public safety team requests a dry run in 2024 of all key events
- Funding is sought. State senator from Arlington serves on the Ways & Means Committee

Court: Could some large events perhaps be held more than once to spread out crowd attendance and security needs? Ex: a re-enactment held once in Lincoln, once in Lexington

Essay Contest

“What do you envision for Concord in the future?” “Fifty years from now, what will Concord be like?”

The Concord Review 's new editor is Rob Nasson; Joe to meet with him this week. www.tcr.org

Would C Review devote one entire 2025 issue to these essays?

Essay max word length? Longer essays may not be a good fit.

Should we pay for this issue? (print quantity, cost?)

Writers' eligibility discussion: Any 9-12th student who goes to school in Concord or resides in Concord. What about students from the other 3 towns?

Joe has OK from CCHS teach Dora Golding (Rhetoric class) for essay involvement. Her curriculum already includes an assignment about the future.

Don't restrict engagement to just English classes. Constitutional Law class, democracy topics

The “future” theme could be incorporated at Gr 3-8 level, too.

Leverage this as an opportunity for all educators

Joe will circulate his Essay Project document to this committee

Schools

Anything that goes public should be approved by Superintendent Laurie Hunter first. Get the administration on board and informed. Give teachers lots of lead time to think about how they can include something 250th-related into their curriculum.

Class of 2025 interested in doing a parody of Emerson's (Longfellow's?) “Shot heard 'round the world” as a video

Polly: Each school will have one contact person

ACTION: Court and Holly could draft a brief document with some of these ideas. Three bullets format:

- For teachers, describe the essay theme (or 250th themes)
- Provide who-to-contact info

- Offer suggestions for next steps; “Here’s how to pursue this project and get involved”

ACTION: Court and Holly draft a general overview of our goals. A letter to L. Hunter. Use it a prototype for communication to other school heads.

Biking Community - Court reports that Wade Rubenstein is generating interest in various biking groups. Do a night ride and a daytime ride?

Polly: A large biking event needs parking for the riders. Check with Fenn School and Nashoba Brooks School for their March 2025 spring break schedule. Those school parking lots could be useful, perhaps as starting or ending points for a ride.

Rivers / Boating

An event on the river? Flotilla? Scope? Canoe up to the North Bridge and back?

Court talked with Brianne Rohan of Martha’s Catering out of South Bridge Boathouse. Perhaps the Rohan family’s pontoon boat could take part.

OARS does an annual river clean-up

Organization for the Assabet Sudbury and Concord Rivers <https://www.oars3rivers.org>

250 Trees project - Julia notes that Gary Clayton’s committee may also have an interest in this topic. Julia has funding ideas

Commemoration of Witness Houses – Holly reports that Faye Allen is working with a banner designer.

Coordinate with the other towns to standardize whatever is displayed to identify each house

Would bunting above each banner draw the eye and attention?

Faye has been to the Historical Commission. She is getting cost estimates.

Boy Scouts/Eagle Scouts

Goal = create one 250th badge. Involve all 4 towns

Have a Concord-to-Somerville Scouts march?

Julie O’Leary’s husband is a Scoutmaster. Maynard knows David Owen.

Sporting events – Aaron Joncas, CCHS Athletics Director, says football season 2024 has CCHS playing at Lexington HS and in spring 2025, baseball will also be away at Lexington.

Brainstorming

Julia: a wool spinning event, like a “spin in”?

On Ag Day (Sept. 9), have several spinners set up and working on the First Parish front lawn?

Record some of the Town tour guides and put that content online

The 250th MASTER CALENDAR will be coming online. Members of this subcommittee will be given access. (concordrev250@gmail.com)

Next meeting: first week of August

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Eberle
Secretary Pro Tem