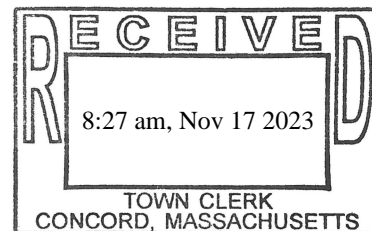


Concord250
Community Participation Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes, October 3, 2023, at the Hunt Gym



Present: Polly Meyer, presiding; Molly Eberle, Court Booth, Mardi Hutchinson, Radha Jalan, Joe Zellner, Maynard Forbes, Nancy McJennett **Absent:** Holly Cratsley **Guest:** Jeanine Calabria

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 2:04. Polly Mayer introduced Jeanine Calabria to the group.

Minutes. The minutes of the September meeting were approved as read.

250 Essay Discussion. (Joe Zellner) The meeting decided that the essay contest should be structured as follows:

- 1,000 words or less
- 5 winners will be published in a special edition of the Concord Review, the main prize.
- Open to all public or private school students or Concord residents in school elsewhere.
- Assignment is by teacher to students; submission is by students to us.
- We believe our target audience is History and English classes (Rhetoric is taught both semesters).
- Cash awards were discussed. If we offer one, it will be couched as scholarship aid.
- This committee will be the first readers.
- We would like to field a panel of “known” readers (e.g., Greg Maguire, Doris Kearns Goodwin).
- Publicize in the Journal, the Bridge, school news.
- Tentative schedule:
 - Notification of contest: First week of November 2023
 - Submissions Deadline: first week of January 2024
 - First Reading: Feb. 15-28
 - Second Reading: Mar. 1-14
 - Panel reading: Mar. 15-29
 - Winners Announced: April 1-19

Other aspects discussed: Could we self-fund the prize money and/or the printing of the Review? Publication cost is unknown, perhaps we could get a corporate sponsor or tap the Ed Fund (Jeanine has some ideas.) We need to get the word out informally with a document that explains the contest. **Joe will work on the announcement and run it by Holly** to present to the Exec Committee. We need **contacts at Fenn (9th graders) and Middlesex.**

Other ideas: Have **winners read at the October Author’s Festival** and use that as both a hook and a due-date for the published Review. We could also **sell the Review** at the Visitor’s Center, the Library Book Sale, and other venues in town. Jeanine will talk to the Festival of Authors.

Multicultural Fair. (Radha Jalan) This year on March 5 at CCHS, 5-6:30 pm for food; Ray Pavlik is the faculty advisor. We want to support it in its current form, then maybe expand it in 2024 or 2025 to the whole community. We’d love to **add performances** -- music and dance in the auditorium. **Mardi will be our rep** to the student government, which runs the Fair. We can offer support with logistics, money, tents, caterers to augment family contributions, etc. It’s important to ask students what they want. (We especially want to **include the Best Western families**; ask the Families Coordinator for contacts. **The fair could be a distributed event:** multiple venues over the first 2 weeks of March (March 8 is International Women’s Day), with multi-cultural movies at the Umbrella.

Class of 2025. (Polly) Not thinking about activities yet, the parents don't want to push too much on them this early. Since the **Umbrella is not doing the Musketaquid Parade**, there might be an opportunity (Stewart is contact at the Umbrella.) Margo from Art for All might be a good student contact. **Service Day:** clean up trail before Patriot's Day, project tie-in could be **Rivers and Revolutions class**, an opportunity, not an imposition. **A year's notice** is needed. Check with the Scouts as well. The parade in 2025 is on Saturday.

Seniors. (Molly Eberle) No report. Jeanine says **the ceramics group at Newbury Court** is planning to make small steins with the date on them. (1775? 250? Need to clarify). The **Council on Aging** is happy to be a venue for programs, but they need a list.

Quilting. (Molly Eberle) **The Concord Piecemakers will hang a solo show** in 2025 at Harvey Wheeler. It would be open to any Concord resident. A Harvard town Piecemaker **is interested in coordinating with other guilds** in Lexington and Arlington to do something larger. She hasn't heard back yet. This idea may get more traction after the guilds meet. (Missy Wahl is a good contact.)

Spinners. (Julia Farwell-Clay via Polly) Has discussed an event **with the Old Manse director** on their property. Also accosted Sen. Mike Barrett and his wife is going to call her. Kristina Joyce is **contacting the DAR**. Some venues have conflicts already on September 14, **2024 (?)**.

Faith Communities. (Nancy McJennett) Nothing to report. It was suggested to **approach thru the Crop Walk**, all churches participate. **Tri-Con is thinking of a Trivia event**. All churches could be venues for other organization's events. Jeanine reminded us to think broadly, include **the B'hai community**. A day of service (a la the MLK Day in Lexington) might be something that the faith groups could support.

Rivers & Bicycles. (Court Booth) Court is in touch with Jerry Frankel (rivers). Maybe a critical mass of outdoors groups could replace the Musketaquid event. Paul Revere on a bike idea is waning -- Wade Rubenstein is rallying other groups but no news from him lately. He **(Court?)** hopes we are doing something to strengthen democracy. Work with the LWV, 250 Town Government coordinator is Diane Proctor. Could we get **Heather Cox Richardson** to speak? Might the Faith Communities sponsor her?

Sports. (Polly) Aaron Joncas and Laurie Hunter say the **250th focus will be on the Lexington games**. Let's involve all the Concord teams, not just football and hockey. **Dec. 27-28 is the Battle Road annual ice hockey** event. We **cannot alter the team jerseys**, so we need to come up with other symbols. Trade pins? **Court suggested that we write a statement** about the significance of 250th for Concord/the US and read it before each game. (Court will draft.)

Next CHF meeting: November 7, 2023, 2 pm, at the Hunt Gym

Respectfully submitted,

--Nancy McJennett
Clerk pro tem