

**Battle Road Scenic Byway Committee
Meeting Minutes**

**Virtual Public Meeting (recorded)
September 22, 2022
10:00 a.m.**

Meeting called to order a 10 AM

Members present: Clarissa Rowe, Paul Fennelly, George Parsons, Richard Canale, Sheila Page/Lexington, Bob Domnitz, Simone Monteleone/Minute Man National Historical Park, Nancy Nelson/Concord, Beth Williams/Concord, Jeanne Krieger/Lexington; Jennifer Curtin/Lincoln.

Others present: Ann Clifford/Concord; Josh Levin/MassDOT District 4; Jane Herlacher; Sarah Mattes

1. Minuteman National Historical Park - -

An update from Simone Monteleone of Minuteman National Park on their Participation in the US Government's "Great American Outdoors Act", which is a significant investment by the U.S. Federal Government to reduce the burden of backlogged maintenance in national Parks and public lands.

Minuteman National Historical Park may receive \$27 million in FY22 for a suite of projects that will rehabilitate or restore numerous historic properties throughout the park. The work will cover repair of historic buildings and trails and conservation of numerous stone and bronze monuments. The work will also include the replacement of over 300 Park Signs. The Park will know if the Grant has been approved by end of Sept. 2022.

This overall Legacy Presentation project was presented to the Battle Road Committee by Minuteman Park Director, Simone Monteleone using a detailed and very informative Power Point slide presentation. This slide presentation was enthusiastically received by Committee members. This presentation can be viewed on the Battle Road Scenic Byway Committee location on the town of Concord website - <concordma.gov>

There was an extensive discussion about signage in the Park. This included opinions on the pros and cons of various sign formats and locations, particularly the plans for a major "identification" sign at the East entrance of the Park on Route 2A near Fiske Hill and the Whitmore House. A decision about exactly where to place this flagship "identification" and welcoming sign will be made soon - -and communicated to the Committee.

Richard Canale pointed out the importance of coordinating the Park's signage program with the signage programs in place in the various towns encompassing the Battle Roads Scenic Byway. It is also important to coordinate the signage program with Mass DOT's planned re-surfacing of Rt 2A, and also the signage on I-95. The Committee had a strong consensus that having all signage programs being coherent and complimentary was a major obligation as

work proceeds on the various improvement projects in the Park, and in other projects being planned in the member towns along the Battle Road Byway.

2. Nancy Nelson reported that the Battle Road Committee hoped to receive news about our National Scenic Byway Grant Proposal by the end of September or early October.
3. Update – Town of Arlington.

Clarissa Rowe reported that since our last meeting, Arlington has a new Town Manager and a new Director for Planning and Development, and that Arlington Committee members will be briefing them on the ongoing efforts and plans for the Battle Road Scenic Byway.

Paul Fennelly reported that Saturday, Sept. 25 is the last date this year for the very successful outdoor Beer Garden festival at the Jason Russell House venue.

George Parsons reported that the Geothermal Heating Project for the Jason Russell House has been completed – on time and slightly under budget and accordingly, some CPA funds will be returned to the Town of Arlington.

4. Update – Town of Lexington

Members from Lexington reported on a project being undertaken by the U.S. Air Force at Hanscom Field that will have impacts on some National Park roads as well as parts of Rt 2A along the Byway. The impacts come primarily by way of re-routing some commercial traffic from the main gate of Hanscom to Rt 2A and also Airport Road and Old Airport Road. This is an 18 month project and the re-routing work will be intermittent, Lexington members expressed concerns about traffic back-ups, noise and air pollution impacts of idling trucks, as well as the importance of adequate signage directing re-routed trucks.

It was noted that the U.S. Air Force did not confer with the Battle Road Scenic Byway Committee about this project and its potential impacts, possibly because they are unaware of the Battle Road Committee and its role of overseeing the integrity of the Battle Road Scenic Byway.

A suggestion was made that Chairwoman, Nancy Nelson, reach out to Hanscom AFB and inform them of the Committee and its role, and set up formal channels of communications.

5. Update – Town of Lincoln

Lincoln will be proceeding with installing a solar power facility on the surface of the capped former Town Landfill near Rt. 2A, along the Byway. The Town is very grateful that Supt. Monteleone of Minuteman National Park has granted permission for town contractors to use an existing Park driveway to access the site. This will significantly alleviate traffic disruptions possibilities.

6. Update – Town of Concord

Concord reported that the pilot test of the trolley system to move visitors and tourists within Concord, including Battle Road venues is underway and initial reports are that the trolley system is working very well.

The next meeting is planned for October 27 at 10 AM. Should news of our pending Grant application arrive sooner, this next meeting may be rescheduled for an earlier date.

DRAFT