

250th Committee Meeting

Minutes: March 11, 2025

Location: Evelyn Haines Conference Room at Town Hall

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2025 7:30 PM
TOWN OF RILEY

Call to Order

Chair Chris Sennott called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

All members present stood and stated the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll/Attendance

Members present: Chair Chris Sennott, Secretary Michele DeParasis, Albert Chin, Taryn Gillis (7:05), John LaFauci, Gil Moreira, Tommy Tringale.

Members via Zoom: Kelley Sardinia, Town Manager, Clancy Main, Ex-Officio: Clancy Main (Town Manager)

Ex-Officio: Jessie Hampson, Recreation Department

Members absent: Vice-Chair Daniel Burns, Treasurer Diana Saunders

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Roy Frost (Police Chief), Robert Cole (Fire Chief), Robert Maynard (Assistant Town Manager), Dave Grubb (Recreation Director)

Guests: Katherine Malgieri (Interim Planning Department Director), John Burrows (Selectboard Member), Michael O'Connell, Author, Riley's Treasure Chase

Absent: Roy Frost (Police Chief), Robert Cole (Fire Chief), Robert Maynard (Director of Administrative Services), Dave Grubb (Recreation Director)

Kelly Sardina stated that the volume of previous meetings was challenging to hear. Chair Sennott moved his seat closer to the microphone to improve the audio reception, and the meeting continued.

Open Mic

Chair Sennott called for open mike comments. Seeing no comments, Chair Sennott closed Open Mic.

Open Meeting Law Complaint Response from Town Council

The Town's Attorney has spoken with Chair Ventresca and Vice-Chair Burns and reviewed the complaint and documents. No other information has been forthcoming.

Michael O'Connell

Michael O'Connell introduced himself as a Lexington, Ma. Native, a retired police officer, and a history buff. He combined his passion for colonial New England and the American Revolution to write his two books, Riley's Treasure Chase and Lady Liberty's Treasure Hunt. The books are geared toward adolescent children and feature Billerica's significant contributions and those of other locales. Mr. O'Connell includes a treasure map within the book's pages with clues to locate a treasure. Mr. O'Connell used his own money to provide two \$100,000 prizes.

A motion was made and seconded to purchase both books and hold a book signing at the Billerica Library geared toward young adults, and raffle tickets for the books will be sold for \$5.00 each.

The motion passed 8-0-0

Minutes from the February 20, 2025 Meeting

Minutes from the February 20, 2025, Meeting were not shared with Committee Members. Secretary DeParasis stated they had been shared with Chair Sennott and

said she would share them with the other members before the next meeting. Chair Sennott moved the February 20 minutes to the March 26th meeting.

Discussion and Vote on Initial Use of Community Grants Funds

The Selectboard generously awarded the 250th Committee \$3333. Chair Sennott asked members for suggestions on how to spend the money, and a discussion ensued.

A motion was made and seconded for Kelly Sardina to source commemorative bells and decals for \$150.00 that the committee will sell as a fundraiser. Kelly Sardinia will report to the committee at our next meeting on March 26.

The motion passed 8-0-0

A motion was made and seconded to research the cost of several 250th Committee Banners during Committee events, including the possibility of a large banner to use over the road with a \$500.00 limit. Kelly Sardina and Taryn Gillis will report to the committee on March 26th.

The motion passed 8-0-0

Chair Sennott volunteered his family members to help us etch a commemorative coin. Al Chin suggested a "wooden nickel" that would be inexpensive, easy to create, and historical.

Grace Tucci suggested selling Christmas ornaments. A motion was made and seconded for Kelly and Grace to explore prices and designs. Michele DeParasis suggested we contact The Hip Bee, as he creates Billerica Christmas Ornaments.

The motion passed 8-0-0

John LaFauci suggested we purchase t-shirts for committee members and volunteers, as well as to sell. Red would be for Committee Members, Blue for Volunteers, and white to sell. The 250th Committee Members agreed that we would pay for our t-shirts and return the funds to the account.

John suggested we take a photograph of members and volunteers in the shape of the American flag for Flag Day and use it on our promotional materials, and it was enthusiastically received.

A motion was made and seconded to source the cost of printed t-shirts for \$200.00 and report to the Committee at the next meeting on March 26th.

The motion passed 8-0-0

Discussion and Full List of Sub-Committees

Secretary DeParasis presented a list of the currently approved subcommittees, which was discussed. A motion was made and seconded to accept the sub-committees as amended. Secretary DeParasis will make changes and send them to Chair Sennott to share with the Committee.

The motion passed 7-0-1

Katherine Malgieri (Interim Planning Department Director) informed the committee that the subcommittees are subject to the same rules as the full committee regarding posting an agenda, etc. Another option would be to assign a lead to do the work and then report to the 250th Committee for a vote.

Update on Ditson Event

Al Chin stated that the Ditson event is "a go" for March 30th at 1:00 p.m. The Billerica Minute Men will be at the event.

Re-appointment of Historical Town Tour

Chair Sennott moved item 11 as all committees have been reviewed and updated.

Interview with BATV

Discussion to hold bi-weekly BATV interviews. Gil Moreira suggested we ask Sandra Giroux to host interviews with Committee Members and persons with historical knowledge of Billerica events. Michele DeParasis suggested we contact John Bartlett, Alec Ingraham, Kathy Meagher (Librarian), and Richard Hawes.

Articles in COA Bulletin

There was a discussion about placing a report in the COA bulletin every month. Gil Moreira will contact the COA and report back at the next meeting on March 26th.

Narrow Down Potential Events

Chair Sennott asked each member to review suggested events and choose 6 of our favorites. Chair Sennott tabled further discussion until the next meeting on March 26th.

A motion was made and seconded.

Motion passed 8-0-0

School Activities Sub-Committee (Chair appoints)

A motion was made and seconded to create a School Activity Subcommittee. Discussion ensued. Chair Chris Sennott appointed Chris Sennott, Diana Saunders, and Jessie Hampson.

The Motion passed 8-0-0

Chairman Report

Chris Sennott reported that he is happy that the committee is being productive and that we are all getting along.

Town Manager's Report

Clancy Main reported that the Committee should wait until the Fall Town Meeting to request funding. A request in the Spring would require him to "raise and appropriate" taxes, and we would have a better opportunity to receive funding from "Free Cash in the fall."

Secretary DeParasis stated that the Clean-Up Green-Up Committee was scheduled to attend the meeting but could not. The Historical Society suggested historical sites be added to the list of clean-up sites for volunteers. Secretary DeParasis indicated that the committee could consider having each member choose a site and organize a

cleaning crew for Clean-Up Green-Up Day on April 26th. The event generally takes approximately one hour. John LaFauci stated that it would be a lot of fun for our committee and that it would be a good way for the community to see us participating.

Town Manager Clancy Main agreed to allow the 250th Committee to use the current sign in the triangle at Billerica Common before April 1.

Secretary DeParasis asked if there is a list of Billerica businesses we can contact. Katherine Malgieri (Interim Planning Department Director) stated that Economic Development has a "Constant Contact" that we may be able to access.

Katherine Malgieri (Interim Planning Department Director) offered to use her equipment and staff to assist in the printing of signs.

Who will be available to man our Booth at Yankee Doodle Weekend? Committee Members should start to think about who is available.

Secretary DeParasis will email minutes from the February 20, 2025, meeting directly to Committee Members.

Adjourn

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

The motion passed 8-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

The next meeting will be on March 26th at 7:00 p.m. at the Evelyn Haines Conference Room in Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted 3/20/2025

By Michele DeParasis

Secretary