

250th Committee Meeting

Minutes: March 26, 2025

Location: Evelyn Haines Conference Room at Town Hall

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, Vice-Chair Dan Burns, Secretary Michele DeParasis, Treasurer Diana Saunders, Albert Chin, Taryn Gillis (7:25), John LaFauci, Gil Moreira, Tommy Tringale (7:52).

Ex-Officio: Jessie Hampson, Recreation Department, School Superintendent Kerry Clery, Katherine Malgieri (Interim Planning Department Director),

Guests: Matt Ahearn, Thomas Talbot, Masonic Lodge, Grace Tucci

Members via Zoom: Kelley Sardinia, Selectman John Burrows, Ex-Officio, Don Jarvis, Veterans, Kat Malgieri, Planning Department

Guests via Zoom: Mary Leach, Clean-Up Green-Up

Members absent: none

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

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
MARCH 26 2025
7:20 PM

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

4-18 Commemoration Event on the Common

Member Thomas Tringale proposed an early morning gathering on the Billerica Common at 5:00 A.M., which would include a wreath-laying and a prayer service. Discussion ensued. Tommy will contact the churches about ringing the bells, and BATV will be contacted. Tommy will update the committee at the

A motion was made and seconded to conduct an early morning gathering and prayer service on the common.

The motion passed 9-0-1

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. Chair Chris Sennott stated that he had received and reviewed the attorney's letter to the state. Diana Saunders noted that there was no Open Meeting Violation, that the complaint was all nonsense, and that there was no good reason to have wasted the town's money on the attorney. Chair Sennott stated that the issue is closed, we need to move forward, and wants no further discussion. (Letter attached.)

Subcommittee Structure

Chair Sennott opened the floor for discussion to change the designation of subcommittees to the Working Group, which would avoid the requirement to post meeting agendas and minutes and meet a quorum. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made and seconded to keep Fund Raising as a subcommittee of the 250th Committee and redesignate the remaining subcommittees as "Working Groups."

The motion passed 9-0-1

Clean-Up Green-Up

Mary Leach of Beautify Billerica announced that the Clean-Up Green-Up is on April 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. She stated that several Billerica Historical sites have been added to the list of clean-up sites. Bay State Baptist has committed to helping but needs a Clean-Up Captain to bring supplies and remain on-site to guide.

A motion was made and seconded to participate as a Committee during the Clean-Up Green-Up. Discussion ensued. Several members committed to creating and captaining a clean-up crew. On April 13, the 250th Committee will meet on the Common to clean up before the April 18 Events on the Common. Dan Burns will clean up the Asa Pollard site with a crew. The 250th Committee will share the signup form on its website.

4-18 Wreath Laying on Common

Member Tommy Tringale asked if the 250th Committee could lay a wreath on 4-19 before the Farmer Company marched to Concord. Discussion ensued. Vice-Chair Burns stated that the Billerica Colonial Minutemen and the Billerica Historical Society are already making a wreath, pole capping, reading of the 14 Patriots who died, and a brief history of Billerica's Minutemen. A motion was made and seconded to conduct a gathering at 5:00 am on 4-19 with a prayer service and ringing of the church bells.

The motion passed 9-0-1

Tommy also requested that the 250th Committee contact the Museum of the American Revolution to request the loan of a musket used by the Billerica Minutemen at the Battle of Bunker Hill during the Revolutionary War.

A motion was made and seconded to investigate the costs and logistics of the loan.

The motion passed 10-0-0

Fund-Raising Committee Craft Fair

Diana Saunders suggested a Craft Fair Fundraiser. The 250th Committee would “rent” tables to crafters for \$25.00. Ms. Saunders stated that each committee member would donate to a table. A motion was made and seconded to hold a Craft Fair at the Billerica Town Hall, pending available dates.

The motion passed 10-0-0

Support of Billerica Colonial Minutemen Events

Captain Dan Burns provided a list of scheduled Billerica Colonial Minutemen Events and asked that the 250th Committee support them.

A motion was made and seconded to support all proposed Billerica Colonial Minutemen Events.

The motion passed 10-0-0

Our Town Live BATV

Sandra Giroux invited the 250th Committee to be featured on *Our Town Live*. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made and seconded to have Chris Sennott, Dan Burns, and John LaFauci appear.

The motion passed 10-0-0

COA Bulletin

Gil Moreira shared the first 250th Committee article in the COA Bulletin. A new bulletin will be published each month. The Committee asked Dr. Clery to have students publish specific historical events during June, July, and August. Dr. Clery will report back to the committee on April 8. Secretary DeParasis agreed to coordinate with the COA Interim Director.

A motion was made and seconded to create a new working group to submit an article each month. Members: Tommy Tringale, Michele DeParasis, and Gil Moreira

The motion passed 10-0-0

4-19 Bell Fundraiser

No updates

Riley's Treasure Chase and Lady Liberty's Treasure Hunt

Michael O'Connell has been notified. Librarian Kathy Meagher submitted the book signing to the Young Adult Director and is waiting for a date.

School Activities Sub-Committee (Chair appointed)

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

Logo

No updates

Haunted Tour

No updates

Ornaments

Grace Tucci and Diana Saunders updated the Committee on the ornaments and suggested a Limited Edition of 250. They showed a wooden plaque and asked Dr. Clery if the woodshop could make them for us to sell. Dr. Clery will report back to the committee on April 8.

Veteran 's-250 and Forward

Don Jarvis reported on projects he is planning for WWII, Veterans Day, and how we can honor them. Secretary DeParasis asked if Mr. Jarvis would be willing to work on a Veterans' Display with the Billerica Historical Society for Veterans' Day. Mr. Jarvis committed to having a class and event for cleaning headstones with the 250th Committee.

Mural

Katherine Malgieri, Planning Department, reported that the town has submitted a grant application on behalf of the 250th Committee. She also stated that CVB would assist us in finding corporate sponsors to cover the \$50,000 balance of the mural project.

A motion was made and seconded for Katherine Malgieri to submit a grant application to the state and CVB for \$50,000 from a corporate sponsor for the Dowdle Mural.

The motion passed 10-0-0

Minutes from 2/20 and 3/11

As submitted, a motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from February 20 and March 11.

The motion passed 10-0-0

Adjourn

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

The motion passed 10-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

The next meeting will be on April 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. on the Common and at 7:00 p.m. in the Evelyn Haines Conference Room at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted 4/7/2025

By Michele DeParasis

Secretary