



## America 250 | CT Community and Organizational Outreach Committee

January 18, 2023 | DRAFT Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting convened at 10:55 AM

Committee members: Denise Merrill, Michael Kickingbear Johnson, Amrys Williams, Andy Horowitz, Cathy Labadia, Merle McGee, Elizabeth Shapiro, Maisa Tisdale, Douglas Lord.

Public – Alice Ridgway (chair, A250 of Litchfield).

The group selected Amrys Williams as committee chair. Douglas Lord volunteered as secretary.

There was a brainstorming session for additional members who would assist with the project.

*Action required:* Contact these groups and individuals to ask for involvement on a committee that best suits them. Suggestions included: COST; CCM, CT Main Street; CT's Kid Governor; youth advisory councils from organizations e.g., the NAACP and CT Forum, Mr. Michael Thomas and Ms. Darlene Troge (Shinnecook Nation). Mike Keo (Connecticut Historical Society Museum and Library Connecticut Historical Society Museum and Library); a representative of the Sikh community; Steve Hernandez as a commissioner of LAPRAC. The community colleges and CSUs, ADACC, the American School for the Deaf, and Matt Weuschaer (sp); arts groups (e.g., International Arts'); and individual artists e.g., storytellers. Latin American and other cultural festivals and WFSB, the Black Caucus and the Puerto Rican Caucus as well as Juneteenth events.

*Action required:* Create distribution lists for general communications which can be segmented for more specialized communications.

### Discussion of core charge:

Reach out and provide assistance to municipalities and nonprofit organizations for the development of programs, projects, and activities pertaining to the American Revolution. Create and use relationships with municipalities and nonprofit organizations to connect the work of the America 250 CT Commission with Connecticut's communities with intentionality and mindfulness of IDEA. Create a core group of principles for those involved.

*Action recommended:* Discussion of creating a toolkit able to be used by the public and organizations for participation.

*Action required:* Create an awareness campaign for America 250 CT.

*Action required:* Create surveys to gauge interest and as material needed to create scaffolding for participants.

Communities that already have efforts include Norwich and Litchfield.

Mike mentions that Last Green Valley is primed and ready. Beth mentioned a report that would be potentially helpful and eight regional service organizations that might be roped into this effort.

There was discussion that many types of organizations will need to be involved from very-local through regional, and up to state-wide.

John volunteered to liaise with IDEA; Doug volunteered to liaise with the youth council.

Final thoughts included that there are multiple pathways to involvement: local, regional, statewide, and other; that the recruitment of many groups, organizations, and individuals is important. Various lists will need to be developed, the idea of listening tours came up with intentional questions.

Discussion of this committee as the connective tissue for the efforts of the Commission and one ongoing concern will be to funnel efforts from both the top down and the bottom up.

*Action required:* A one-page document that explains America 250 and this committee.

*Goal:* Create a workable structure for this effort

*Goal:* Involve every CT community in the state; not 'just' the usual suspects.

Next Committee meeting date will be virtual and Doodle polled for the end of January, beginning of February. Doug will let CTH know.

Committee meeting adjourned at 11:48 AM.

The next *Commission* meeting date scheduled for April 12, 2023.

The next COO *Committee* meeting is TBD.