



America 250 | CT Commission
Community & Organizational Engagement Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Thursday August 10, 2023

Virtual Meeting Attendees: A. Williams (Chair), D. Lord, A. Horowitz, L. Shapiro, M. Tisdale, M. McGee, J. Slifka, C. Labadia.

CT Humanities Staff Present: M. Kemezis, C. Tolosa.

The meeting began at 11:02AM.

Minutes.

Discussion of how to engage people interested in the subcommittee, and best size for the subcommittee. Ideas include:

- Creating different groups of people that are emailed updates and needs based on who has expressed interest

- Update reply message on interest form to direct them to meetings for now

- Think about how this relates to the list of local contacts

- Designate certain meetings (quarterly?) where people can participate - after full commission meeting (November)

Discussion of workflow for responses to engagement@ct250.org

Discussion of aspects of the action plan.

- Goal 1 Action Statement 1 – Work will be continually developed and refined

- Goal 2 Action Statement 1 – Discussion of creation of a comprehensive resource with full contact information; at least one representative of each town/constituency (some communities will have many) to include state representatives and senators.

Discussion of tools for outreach, e.g. rack cards, and an approach that will incorporate webinars, emails, physical mailings, meetings, presentations, community access, radio spots and work with legislators.

There was much discussion of inclusion and ‘containers’ for this work. E.g., the Pequot Museum’s take on America 250 will be radically different than the Jonathan Trumbull House. A need for diversification of places as well.

Discussion of messaging what the commission is (and isn’t) doing, clarifying what we want people to do now and what the commission will be doing in the long term.

The time is now for organizations to start planning their events using the themes and guidelines developed to date. In the near future, we will provide further guidance for funding and promotion.

Commission needs to be thinking about the signature event in 2026 to ensure that event reflects the commission's goals and has time reserved starting ASAP.

The meeting ended at 12:22PM.

Next meeting

The dates of the next meetings are 10/18/23 (full commission); 9/14/23 (subcommittee).