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# Litchfield

**AMERICA 250**  
CONNECTICUT

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[LitchfieldPatriots.org/Americas250th](https://LitchfieldPatriots.org/Americas250th)

# Committee Structure

In October 2022, the Board of Selectmen endorsed the Litchfield Patriots, Inc. to coordinate and convene events vs. a political town commission.

Initial Community Convenings helped folks choose levels of engagement:

[Coordinating Committee](#),

Extended Partners, or

Dissemination Networks.

Committee meets every other month so far.

Affinity Groups – [Independence Week](#)

Project based “subcommittees” – Logo contest



# Coordinating Committee Members

- Alex DuBois, [Litchfield Historical Society](#), Curator
- April Blasavage, [First Congregational Church Litchfield](#)
- Denise Raap, [First Selectwoman](#)
- Doug Clement, [VisitLitchfieldCT.com](#)
- Eileen Porter-Schmidt, [Litchfield Patriots](#), President
- Hugh Schoelzel, [White Memorial Foundation](#), Board Member
- James Amrich, [Post 27](#)
- Jessica Jenkins, [Litchfield Historical Society](#), Director
- John Cox, [University Club & Boston Tea Party Descendant](#)
- John Lilley, [Post 44](#)
- Kate Zullo, [Litchfield Historical Society](#), Education Lead
- Lisa Partick, NW Community Bank
- Martha Bernstein, many groups
- Mike Bird, [Sons of the American Revolution](#)
- Nancy Amrich, [Daughters of the American Revolution](#)
- Olivia DeFiore, [Oliver Wolcott Library](#)
- Reide Augustyn, [Student](#)
- Sean Fogarty, [Litchfield Patriots](#), Board Member
- Victoria Sansing, [Litchfield Garden Club](#)
- Alice Ridgway, Chair

# Accomplishments

<https://www.litchfieldpatriots.org/Americas250th/a250-so-far>

- Vision, Mission, Values
- Google Workspace for Nonprofits, Website and Logo Contest
- Independence Week 2026 draft schedule
- Marketing toolkit draft
- Idea List *online* as a resource and tool for connecting partners

	Organization (as applicable)	Contact person	Project being considered	Estimated timeframe	Looking for	Other Resources available
15	<a href="#">American Legion Post #27, Litchfield</a>	Jim Amrich	Memorial Day parade, Flag Day, Hillacious Half, Veterans Day			contacts for planning parades
16	<a href="#">American Legion Post #44, Bantam</a>	John Lilley	Memorial Day parade, Flag Day, Hillacious Half, Veterans Day			
17	<a href="#">Bantam Borough</a>	Dick Sheldon	250th Boston Tea Party: "Tea-less" Tea Party partnering with groups well in advance to screen A250 related films / hold related events	December 17, 2023		NFP rental rates, could even designate a week for A250
18	<a href="#">Bantam Cinema</a>	Rober Kwalick	<i>still thinking</i>	2026 with MUCH notice		
19	<a href="#">Chabad Lubavitch</a>	Joseph Eisenbach	Support planting heritage crops and colonial gardens			
20	<a href="#">Chanticlair Acres</a>	Harvey Hubbel V	<i>still thinking</i>			
21	<a href="#">East Litchfield Fire Company</a>	John Cattey	Ringin church bells and firing cannons on Patriot's Day as well as July 4th	April 19, 2025		
22	<a href="#">First Litchfield Artillery</a>	David Wilson	<i>still thinking</i>			
23	Forman School	John Strawson				
24	<a href="#">Friends of the Litchfield Community</a>					

# Challenges

"It's too far off!" (*slowly becoming less of a challenge*)

Litchfield's 300th was 2019 – this has confused folks.

"Low hanging fruit" ideas vs. state commission themes.

Need more national PR about America 250!

Funding Funding Funding (particularly for Marketing)

Waiting for partners to decide and start planning their projects.

Region 20 is new and in flux (budget, superintendent change, etc.)

People LOVE coming up with ideas, implementation is less fun.

# Opportunities

Our partners have great ideas! (*Committee coordinates it all.*)

- Beecher Monument Restoration
- Two Lights for Tomorrow in Litchfield – April 18-19, 2025
- Rev War patriot headstone inventory, cleaning, repair, replacement and marking in 5 cemeteries
- “Melted Majesty” Pomeroy marker at the Wolcott House
- New hotels, increased tourism
- Regional planning to prevent schedule conflicts and overlap?
- Independence Week:  
Colonial Dancing, Red Coats Harassing, Commemorating, Celebrating, and Making Fun Memories for Today's Children!