

AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

America 250 | CT Commission Governance Subcommittee Meeting Monday, October 7, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom Agenda

Attendees

Subcommittee/Voting Members

Arienne Orozco, Chair
Deborah Schander
Jason Mancini
Melvette Hill
Michael Werner
Megan Baker

CTH Staff

Cyndi Tolosa
Sheldyn Oliver
Rachel Gonzalez

The meeting began at 3:03 p.m.

1. Minutes Approval

a. [August 12, 2024](#)

- i. Motion to approve: A. Orozco; Seconded: D. Schander; In favor- 4, No - 0, Abstain - 0

2. Commission Demographic Data Collection

a. [Results](#)

C. Tolosa & R. Gonzalez shared updates on the results that were received. 41 individuals responded, including commissioners and subcommittee members. Due to the small numbers of responses on individual subcommittees, it was recommended that results be aggregated when developing the report. Similarly to the Secretary of the State's reporting, data will be compared to statewide demographics. In presenting to the Commission at the October 16 meeting, notable gaps will be identified and highlighted.

3. Affiliate Program

Forty-nine applications were received prior to the first deadline and are ready for review. Outreach to solicit applications came through the commission's mailing list, social media for the commission and CTH, and from municipal convenings in Bridgeport and Hartford.

The first question for discussion centered on whether town committees should be considered for approval as affiliates. A. Orozco proposed that they should. D. Schander recommended that we confirm that the applicants are affiliated with the town versus having set up their own committee. The consensus was that town committees should be accepted as long as they are connected to the town. All town committee applications were added to the slate of "approvals", with the exception of Essex & Bethlehem, which will be approved pending confirmation that they are the official town committees.

The second discussion centered on whether organizations headquartered outside of Connecticut should be considered. Specifically, End Witch Hunts provided a Colorado address. C. Tolosa noted that staff has confirmed this organization is doing historical and legislative work in Connecticut. J. Mancini noted that CTH has organizations it works with that are chartered outside of Connecticut so felt that was less of a concern, but was struggling with the organization's connection to the themes of the Commission. D. Schander recommended that out-of-state organizations be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, and that staff reach out to End Witch Hunts to provide more information on how they plan to connect to the themes of the Commission. Subcommittee members agreed on both counts.

The third discussion centered on whether for-profit organizations should be considered, specifically Capture Visual Marketing. D. Schander voiced the concern that accepting a for-profit as an affiliate could be seen as an endorsement of that company. J. Mancini requested clarification on how they tied into the Commission's work. C. Tolosa shared that this company in particular has been working with museums and cemeteries to create a high-quality digital tour of exhibits and gravesites, and echoed the concern of appearing to endorse a company, regardless of the type of work they are doing. M. Werner noted that the digital tours can help increase accessibility to sites that may not be accessible/ADA compliant. A. Orozco noted that the Secretary of the State's office is promoting civic engagement with businesses they are working with and so it feels reasonable to welcome businesses which are doing work around the 250th. C. Tolosa posed the question of whether a Commission-organized meeting of affiliates would give a business a place to pitch their services to museums and other non-profit affiliates. D. Schander, J. Mancini, M. Werner, and M. Hill provided thoughts in favor of allowing for-profit organizations, so long as their mission and work is aligned with that of the Commission. A. Orozco suggested that for-profits follow the same criteria for acceptance as non-profits.

For voting purposes, all applications may be voted on together except: Essex Historical/Essex 250th Commission and Christmas Town 250 (pending confirmation of status as town-sanctioned committees); End Witch Hunts (pending additional clarification from organization on connection to Commission's themes); and Conservation ConneCTion, Connecticut State Historical Records Advisory Board, and Museum of Connecticut History/Connecticut State Library (D. Schander must abstain from these votes due to a conflict of interest).

Vote #1

- To approve all applications received on or before 9/30, except Conservation ConneCTion, Connecticut State Historical Records Advisory Board, Museum of Connecticut History/Connecticut State Library, Essex Historical Society/Essex 250th Commission, End Witch Hunts, and Christmas Town 250
- Motion: A. Orozco; In favor - 6, No - 0, Abstain - 0

Vote #2

- To approve Conservation ConneCTion, Connecticut State Historical Records Advisory Board, and Museum of Connecticut History/Connecticut State Library
- Motion: A. Orozco; In favor - 5, No - 0, Abstain - 1 (D. Schander)

Vote #3

- To approve Essex Historical Society/Essex 250th Commission and Christmas Town 250, pending confirmation of their status as a town-sanctioned commission in Essex and Bethlehem respectively
- Motion: A. Orozco; In favor - 6, No - 0, Abstain - 0

Vote #4

- To seek clarification on how End Witch Hunts plans to tie into the Commission's themes and table a vote on affiliate status until the November Governance meeting
- Motion: A. Orozco; In favor - 6, No - 0, Abstain - 0

4. Other Business as Needed

Meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.