AMERICA 250
CONNECTICUT

America 250 | CT Commission
Local Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.
Virtual via Zoom
Meeting Notes

1. America 250 | CT Commission Updates
    a. Collaboration Platform
        i. A private Facebook group has been created for town committee members - please consider joining to share ideas, and collaborate.

    b. Program Development
        i. Cyndi Tolosa shared a list of potential programs, created by the Commission's Organizational & Community Engagement subcommittee, that town committees may be interested in planning. Each program has been tied to one of the themes of the America 250 | CT Commission for easy alignment, and most programming ideas may be scaled up or down depending on your community's capacity and interest.
        ii. Slides available on the website here - this link will be updated as new programming ideas are added.
        iii. Please also utilize other available programming resources linked from our resources page, particularly the AASLH Programming Guide and America 250 | CT Planning Guide.

2. Local Committee Spotlight: Ridgefield
    a. Geoffrey Morris presented on Ridgefield's plans - see his presentation linked here.
        i. Ridgefield's Committee has developed a logo and website, to be launched in the new year.
        ii. They are currently working on a budget ask to the town government. Their anticipated budget is $200-250k, with a portion funded by the town and the rest made up of sponsorships, private donations, ticket & merchandise sales, etc. They hope to make most programming free to the public to facilitate access.
        iii. Commemorative events will kick off on July 4, 2025 and run through the year, culminating on July 3 & 4, 2026. In addition to events planned by the town committee, they are encouraging local arts, cultural, and civic organizations to plan their own programming. They also hope to engage local merchants and restaurants on festival days and development/sales of merchandise.
        iv. Merchandise - They are planning to use local businesses as much as possible to develop merchandise, including t-shirts. They also hope to develop a kit that residents can purchase to decorate their homes, including items such as bunting, American flags, etc.

3. Questions & Discussion
    a. Commission staff will be planning some work with youth-serving organizations in the near future; updates will be shared when available. Aaron Marcavitch (Enfield) shared information on connecting with local Boy Scouts:
        i. I encourage you to become registered as a merit badge counselor for American Heritage and Citizenship in the Community. Also, Citizenship in the Nation includes National Register discussion. There are badges in collecting and architecture and many more. It will be beneficial to the scouts as well as the communities.

Helpful Links:

- Event Calendar
- Local Commission Listing
- Affiliate Program **- Next Deadline to apply is December 8, 2024**
- Federal Grants
- CT Humanities Grants
- AASLH Field Guide, Programming Guide, and Local Commission Technical Leaflet
- Two Lights for Tomorrow
- Funding Resources