

AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

America 250 | CT Commission
Governance Subcommittee Meeting
Monday, January 13, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom
Minutes

Attendees

Subcommittee
Arienne Orozco
Deborah Schander
Jason Mancini
Michael Werner
Megan Baker

CTH Staff
Sheldyn Oliver
Cyndi Tolosa
Rachel Gonzalez

1. Minutes Approval
 - a. [December 16, 2024](#)
 - i. Motion to approve: J. Mancini; Seconded: D. Schander
 1. Yes - 5, No - 0, Abstain - 0
2. Affiliate Program

Four new affiliate applications were received, as well as additional information on two outstanding applications.

Outstanding Applications:

The Town of Vernon shared additional information on their application, confirming that they were applying on behalf of the town's 250th committee. Subcommittee members agreed that this application should be moved to the approval vote.

End Witch Hunts shared that they have been working with a DAR chapter to connect witch trial descendents to the American Revolution and that they are holding a remembrance ceremony for witch trial victims at Connecticut's Old State House. D. Schander and J. Mancini noted that it may be more appropriate for the DAR chapter to become an affiliate, as End Witch Hunts appears to be connecting to the 250th for one program. Subcommittee members were in agreement that, in lieu of requesting additional clarification from this group, the application be denied and that End Witch Hunts consider encouraging their DAR partner to become an affiliate.

New Applications:

Two new applications were flagged by staff for discussion - Plainfield CT 250 and Middlesex Parish 250 - as both applicants responded "no" to one or more Values Alignment questions. Additional information was solicited from both organizations by staff.

Plainfield CT 250 represented the town's committee, and responded "no" to one question as they felt they were not in a position to judge the actions of others. Subcommittee members agreed that this was not grounds to deny the application, and moved it to the slate of applications to approve.

Middlesex Parish 250 is a newly formed community committee, and was not yet prepared to share a response to the questions. Subcommittee members agreed to table this application pending additional information.

- a. Discussion on any flagged applications
 - i. [Application Review Form](#)
 - ii. [Application Cover Sheets](#)
 - iii. [Full Applications](#)
- b. Vote on applications
 - i. Motion to approve: Town of Vernon and all new applications except Middlesex Parish 250.
 1. Yes - 5, No - 0, Abstain - 0
 - ii. Motion to table pending additional information: Middlesex Parish 250.
 1. Yes - 5, No - 0, Abstain - 0
 - iii. Motion to deny End Witch Hunts & recommend encouraging the DAR chapter(s) that they are working with to become affiliates.
 1. Yes - 5, No - 0, Abstain - 0

3. Annual Report

All subcommittee members had a chance to review the draft of the report, no comments or additions brought up.

4. Other Business as Needed

The Subcommittee will continue to meet monthly, though affiliate applications are slowing down. Staff hopes to have a conversation with commissioners at the full commission meeting on Wednesday to solicit recommendations for additional outreach to organizations that are missing.