AMERICA 250
CONNECTICUT

America 250 | CT Commission
Local Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.
Virtual via Zoom
Meeting Notes

1. Welcome & Introduction of New Commissions

2. America 250 | CT Commission Updates
    a. Legislative Meeting/Presentation: 2/27/25, 11:00 a.m.
        i. This presentation was given by Denise Merrill, Chair of the Commission, and Cyndi Tolosa, Project Manager. It also included updates from 2 of our town committees (Ridgefield & Wethersfield) and 2 affiliates (Connecticut Museum of Culture and History & Litchfield Historical Society). Recording is available here - please feel free to review and/or share with your legislators & networks.
    b. Conference - Power of Place Track
        i. Shaping a Commemoration Rooted in Belonging will take place at UConn, Storrs, on Friday, March 21. Registration information is available at the link. The Power of Place track will include sessions that are intended to be particularly helpful to town committees.
    c. Planning Workshop
        i. Commission staff hosted a planning workshop for 250th programs & events, adapted from a workshop published by AASLH. This workshop covered the basics of planning programs and some resources specific to the 250th, including a strategy screen to help organizations and towns narrow down their ideas. The recording is available at the link above, and a landing page with all associated resources is available here.
    d. Proclamation
        i. The commission is working to draft a proclamation regarding the 250th that all municipalities will be invited to adopt in summer of 2025. The commission hopes to also plan a recommitment ceremony on July 4, 2026, with representatives from each municipality. There was some concern amongst the group on the ability to participate in an event like this one - additional conversations around this will follow.
    e. Two Lights for Tomorrow Materials
        i. Two Lights for Tomorrow is scheduled for the 250th anniversary of the Midnight Ride of Paul Revere. On April 18, 2025, interested parties can participate by displaying two lights outside their government buildings or other participating organizations. On April 19, 2025, the Connecticut commission is encouraging individuals, towns, and organizations to participate in a national day of service. Additional materials for this nationwide initiative will be forthcoming soon.

3. Local Committee Spotlight: Bristol

    a. Lee McFadden shared information on how the Bristol committee formed and is making plans for the 250th. Her slides are available here.

4. Questions & Discussion
    a. Several towns indicated interest in a coordinated bell-ringing at 2pm on July 4, 2026, or another designated date.

Helpful Links:

- Event Calendar
- Local Commission Listing
- Affiliate Program
- Federal Grants
- CT Humanities Grants
- AASLH Field Guide, Programming Guide, and Local Commission Technical Leaflet
- Two Lights for Tomorrow
- Funding Resources
- Private Facebook group
- Recording from Planning Workshop