
Bristol

AMERICA 250
CONNECTICUT

History of Bristol's Committee

I emailed Mayor Jeff Caggiano on 1/26/2023 asking if there were any plans to have a committee or commission to start planning. He said no and that he was not interested in starting one.

Maya Bringe, who was President of the Historical Society and I came up with our first invite list to get the ball rolling.

Our first meeting was held in the summer of 2023.

Committee Structure

Committee makeup: Representatives from the Bristol Historical Society, City Historian, Cemetery Commission, City Employees from Parks and Rec and Public Relations, Watch & Clock Museum, Library, Carousel Museum, Daughters of the American Revolution, teachers, and the Chamber of Commerce.

Relationship to municipal government: we have representatives from City Hall, but there is no formal relationship. Any funding stream will go through the Historical Society which is a 501c3.

Subcommittees: kick off event which will be around 1/1/2026, 4th of July event, telling inclusive stories, school events, public relations,

Meeting frequency: usually once a month, third or fourth Thursday at the Historical Society.

Accomplishments

Inviting more groups to join in, we brainstormed who should be invited and divided up the calls.

Design a Logo:



Accomplishments

What length of time did we want to cover—all years of the war? We decided to stick to the year 2026 for events.

What should we do as a committee? We decided to hold two main public events and then have smaller ones like history walks, cemetery tours focusing on Revolutionary citizens, school programs, recording stories. We decided to reach out to already established events and organizations to encourage them to focus on the 250 in their programs in 2026. We have started to do mailings to this larger list of organizations. This mailing includes a letter from the mayor supporting our committee and what we are doing.

Challenges

No funding yet—we are beginning to reach out to local corporations to get going on this.

Keeping momentum—attendance at committee meetings is going down. Not sure if people are losing enthusiasm or if it is the winter doldrums.

Opportunities

To get citizens, especially children, interested in the history of our nation and community.

To record stories of our citizens before they are lost to time.

Opportunity to help heal the community from the devastating loss of two police officers.