New Milford

AMERICA 250
CONNECTICUT

Committee Structure

Our committee is an independent committee with support from Mayor Pete Bass and the town council.

The committee's mission is to highlight New Milford's place in the founding of the country, and engage the community with inclusive activities and events that celebrate and commemorate America's 250th birthday as part of the national celebration in 2026.

Committee makeup: Volunteer community members with an interest in our revolutionary history. Our committee include teachers, bankers, town historian, and leaders from other town committees. Members also represent DAR, SAR, and the New Milford Historical Society.

Special subcommittees are created as needed for focused projects.

The committee meets once a month, and subcommittees more frequently when needed.

The committee has been in existence since December 2023.

Accomplishments

NMCT250 has been actively pursuing projects since our inception.

- Summer 2023 - the Children of 1773 scavenger hunt
- December 16, 2023 - Reenactment of the Boston Tea Party
- March 2024 - History At Play - Deborah Sampson
- April 2024 – Culper Spy Ring presentation to all 5th graders
- October 2024 - Spirits of New Milford 250 at RiverFest
- March 2025 – Patriots Day Commemoration & Liberty Tree Dedication
- April 2025 - Culper Spy Ring 2.0 presentation to all 5th graders
- May 2025 - Airing of the Quilts

Challenges

- Always looking for more volunteers.
- Buy-in from local stakeholders
  - Town businesses reluctant to participate when we see these activities as a win-win opportunity, especially for activities central to downtown.
- Spreading the word!
  - Newspapers no longer do press releases and others require payment to share events.
  - Have to rely on social media and getting the flyers out to multiple town pages and still people miss the events.
- Funding - this has been a grassroots project and everything that we have accomplished has come from donations from committee members and select support organizations.

Opportunities

What is your committee planning?

- Spirits of New Milford 2.0 (October 2025)
- Guest Author Eric Jay Dolin to speak about “Rebels at Sea” (Fall 2025)
- Culper Spy Ring 3.0 (Spring 2026)
- Airing of the Quilts 2.0 (May 2026)
- Signing of the Declaration of Independence (July 2026)
- Revolutionary Fair in partnership with River Fest (Oct 2026)

What are you excited for?

All of it!