



**America 250 | CT Commission Meeting**  
**Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at 10:00 AM**  
**Manchester History Center, Manchester, CT**  
**Agenda with Votes**

**Recording:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6DSnAhyFsk>

## Attendees

## Commissioners

Denise Merrill (Chair) (In Person)  
Jason Mancini (Vice Chair) (In Person)  
Amrys Williams (In Person)  
Andy Horowitz (In Person)  
Arienne Orozco (In Person)  
Deborah Schander (In Person)  
Tom Scanlon (In Person)  
Margaret Khan (In Person)  
Nicolas Angeli (In Person)  
Steve Armstrong (In Person)  
Michael Werner (In Person)  
Catherine Labadia (Virtual)  
Jonathan Slifka (Virtual)  
Maisa Tisdale (Virtual)  
Merle McGee (Virtual)  
Rob Kret (Virtual)  
Sally Whipple (Virtual)

Staff

Cyndi Tolosa (In Person)  
Megan Baker (In Person)  
Rachel Gonzalez (In Person)  
Misa Giroux (Virtual)  
Becky Vitkauskas (Virtual)  
Mike Kemezis (Virtual)

### Members of the Public

Aaron Marcavitch (In Person)  
Lee McFadden (In Person)

The meeting started at 10:11 a.m.

5 min. Welcome D. Merrill

- Approval of Minutes from [April 16, 2025 Meeting](#)

Motion: Steve Armstrong  
Second: Amrys Williams  
Discussion: None  
Vote: Yes (16), No (-), Abstain (-) [M. Tisdale joined the meeting after this vote was made]

15 min.	National/Regional Update	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relationship with National Efforts</li> <li><a href="#">White House Task Force</a> &amp; <a href="#">America 250</a></li> <li>Other National Initiatives</li> <li>Northeast Regional Group</li> </ul>	<p>J. Mancini</p> <p>C. Tolosa</p> <p>C. Tolosa</p> <p>A. Orozco</p>

10 min.	Funding Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State of Connecticut</li> <li>• Corporate/Foundation</li> <li>• Federal 250th</li> <li>• Give 250 Connecticut</li> </ul>	D. Merrill J. Mancini R. Kret C. Tolosa
10 min.	CT Humanities Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NEH &amp; Federal Funding</li> <li>• <a href="#">Recent CTH Grant Awards</a></li> </ul>	J. Mancini B. Vitkauskas
20 min.	Recaps and Upcoming Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Two Lights for Tomorrow</a></li> <li>• White Oak Tree Working Group</li> <li>• July 4, 2026</li> </ul>	R. Gonzalez T. Scanlon C. Tolosa
45 min.	Subcommittee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance</li> <li>• Community &amp; Organizational Engagement</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Marketing</li> </ul>	A. Orozco A. Williams S. Armstrong, M. Giroux R. Kret, C. Tolosa
15 min.	Public Comment	

The meeting ended at 11:47 a.m.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at 10 AM  
Location TBD