



**America 250 | CT Commission
Governance Subcommittee Meeting
Monday, May 12, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom
Minutes**

[Watch the Recording](#)

Attendees

Subcommittee

Arienne Orozco, Chair
Deborah Schander
Michael Werner
Denise Merrill
Megan Baker

CTH Staff

Cyndi Tolosa

The meeting started at 3:02 p.m.

1. Minutes Approval

a. [April 14, 2025](#)

Motion: D. Schander; Second: M. Werner; Vote: Yes - 3, No - 0, Abstain - 0 (D. Merrill & M. Baker were not present for the vote)

2. Affiliate Program Discussion & Approvals

a. Discussion on any flagged applications & review flagged April application

- i. [Application Review Form](#)
- ii. [Application Cover Sheets](#)
- iii. [Full Applications](#)

b. Vote on applications

C. Tolosa provided an update on applications for May - there were 8 new applications plus one application that had been tabled from April. Jason Mancini reviewed and voted on applications prior to the meeting. A. Orozco noted that her concerns about the Town of Manchester's application were resolved with their response to the subcommittee's questions, and there are no concerns with the new applications. She requested a motion to approve the 9 applications.

Motion: D. Schander; Second: D. Merrill; Vote: Yes - 5, No - 0, Abstain - 0

3. Updates on Affiliate Outreach

C. Tolosa shared that the commission is up to ~120 approved affiliates. There was a brief discussion on the potential involvement of the CT Bar Association as an affiliate and a poster project for elementary schools that could be managed through the Education subcommittee.

After the April commission meeting, several commissioners planned to conduct outreach to prospective affiliate organizations. A. Orozco noted that some of the organizations on her list, namely Chambers of Commerce, might have a slightly different ask - to share the request to become an affiliate with their members rather than become an affiliate themselves. Subcommittee members generally agreed with that approach.

4. Other Business as Needed

A. Orozco shared that the Secretary of the State's office has a new communications staff member and they are hoping to put together a summer "trail" of civics-based sites in the state that could be tied into the 250th. This could be promoted via social media - C. Tolosa offered to collaborate on a series over the summer.

D. Merrill shared an update on plans to work on a white oak tree planting project with the towns. The subcommittee discussed individuals who might assist so a working group could be formed. CTH staff will send a request to commissioners to solicit those who are interested in joining this group.

A. Orozco recommended moving the subcommittee meeting times, as Rachel Gonzalez & Jason Mancini are no longer able to attend the currently scheduled time. Generally, subcommittee members agreed that Tuesday mornings were a good time - CTH staff will put together a poll by the end of the week to confirm the best slot for all subcommittee members. Meetings will continue monthly and be reduced to 30 minutes.

No other business was shared.

The meeting ended at 3:36 p.m.