



**America 250 | CT Commission  
Governance Subcommittee Meeting  
Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom  
Minutes**

[Watch the Recording](#)

**Attendees**

Subcommittee

Arienne Orozco, Chair  
Michael Werner  
Jason Mancini

CTH Staff

Cyndi Tolosa  
Rachel Gonzalez

The meeting started at 10:02 a.m.

1. Minutes Approval

- a. [May 12, 2025](#) - There was not a quorum of voting members present; minutes approval tabled for next meeting.

2. Updates

- a. Regional 250 Planners Conference

Arienne Orozco provided an update from the Northeast Regional 250 Planners convening in Newport, RI on June 2. Rhode Island's commission now has a marketing company working with them. Other states are also looking to expand the 250th beyond 2026, for varying lengths of time. The Newport History Museum spoke about their fundraising efforts and said they have had a relatively easy time to raise money - that there is bipartisan support and there is a lot of emotion and nostalgia generated from talking about the ideals & imagery of the revolution. A representative from the Youth 250 Bureau also spoke; this group could be a good resource for organizations which want to engage with youth but don't have the capacity on their own. Other states would like to collaborate on additional events - particularly, Vermont would like to work with Connecticut on a project associated with Ethan Allen. The group is looking for a state to host the 2026 convening - Cyndi Tolosa agreed to consider sites to partner with to potentially host in Connecticut, possibly either in Mystic or Ridgefield.

3. Affiliate Program Discussion & Approvals

- a. Discussion on any flagged applications
  - i. [Application Review Form](#)
  - ii. [Application Cover Sheets](#)
  - iii. [Full Applications](#)

- b. Vote on applications

No applications were flagged for discussion by any subcommittee member. Jason Mancini & Deborah Schander voted on the review document with no concerns. After a brief delay to achieve quorum, J. Mancini joined the meeting for the vote.

Motion: J. Mancini; Second: M. Werner; Vote: Yes - 3, No - 0, Abstain - 0

#### 4. Updates on Affiliate Outreach

A. Orozco is beginning to conduct outreach to her group, including chambers of commerce. She will include a note inviting chambers to speak with commissioners and/or have a presentation at a meeting and CC Rachel Gonzalez on outreach.

#### 5. Other Business as Needed

There was a brief discussion about tabling at upcoming events, including for Juneteenth. C. Tolosa & R. Gonzalez shared information about the tabling kit that is being offered to town committees on loan.

The meeting ended at 10:32 a.m.