

# AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

**America 250 | CT Commission Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at 10:00 AM**  
**Community Room**  
**Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library, Old Lyme, CT**  
**Agenda with Votes**

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aa5orUS8QsU>

## Attendees

### Commissioners

Denise Merrill (Chair) (In Person)  
Jason Mancini (Vice Chair) (In Person)  
Amrys Williams (In Person)  
Andy Horowitz (Virtual)  
Arienne Orozco (In Person)  
Deborah Schander (In Person)  
Tom Scanlon (Virtual)  
Margaret Khan (In Person)  
Steve Armstrong (In Person)  
Liz Shapiro (In Person)  
Sally Whipple (In Person)  
Catherine Labadia (Virtual)  
Jonathan Slifka (Virtual)  
Merle McGee (Virtual)  
Rob Kret (Virtual)  
Melvette Hill (Virtual)  
Anthony Champalimaud (Virtual)  
Nicholas Angeli (Virtual)

### Staff

Cyndi Tolosa (In Person)  
Rachel Gonzalez (In Person)  
Michael Werner (In Person)  
Scott Wands (In Person)

### Consultant

Emma Wiley (Virtual)

### Members of the Public

Katie Huffman (In Person)

The meeting started at 10:03 a.m.

5 min.	Welcome	D. Merrill
	• Approval of Minutes from <a href="#">July 16, 2025 Meeting</a>	
Motion:	Deborah Schander	
Second:	Steve Armstrong	
Discussion:	None	
Vote:	Yes (15), No (-), Abstain (1) [2 commissioners joined the meeting after this vote]	
10 min.	National/Regional Update	
	• Update on National Convening	J. Mancini, R. Gonzalez
	• Northeast Regional Group	C. Tolosa

15 min.	Funding Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State of Connecticut</li> <li>• <a href="#">Corporate/Foundation</a></li> <li>• NEH &amp; CTH Funding</li> </ul>	D. Merrill J. Mancini J. Mancini
30 min.	Recaps and Upcoming Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statewide Exhibit</li> <li>• <a href="#">Give 250 Connecticut</a></li> <li>• July 4, 2026</li> <li>• <a href="#">Proposed Calendar</a></li> </ul>	C. Tolosa, E. Wiley C. Tolosa C. Tolosa D. Merrill, J. Mancini
45 min.	Subcommittee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Annual Report to the Governor</li> <li>◦ <a href="#">Affiliates: Goal of 250</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Spread the Word</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>◦ Commission Demographics Polling</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Community &amp; Organizational Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <a href="#">Town Committees</a></li> <li>◦ <a href="#">Community Calendar</a></li> <li>◦ <a href="#">Code of Conduct</a></li> <li>◦ <a href="#">Programming Survey</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <a href="#">Curriculum</a></li> <li>◦ <a href="#">Local History Project</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	A. Orozco  A. Williams  S. Armstrong
15 min.	Public Comment	

**Next Meeting:** TBD - January 2026  
 Location TBD (Hartford area)