

# AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

**America 250 | CT Commission Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 10:00 AM**  
**The Community Foundation of Greater New Britain Community Room**  
**Southington Public Library**  
**Minutes**

**Recording:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbLsh4-wZOo>

## Attendees

### Commissioners

Denise Merrill (Chair) (In Person)  
Jason Mancini (Vice Chair) (In Person)  
Stephanie Thomas (In Person)  
Arienne Orozco (In Person)  
Stephen Armstrong (In Person)  
Margaret Khan (In Person)  
Tom Scanlon (In Person)  
Melvette Hill (In Person)  
Andy Horowitz (In Person)  
Deborah Schander (In Person)  
Amyrs Williams (In Person)  
Anthony Champalimaud (In Person)  
Merle McGee (Virtual)  
Ilene Frank (Virtual)

Cathy Labadia (Virtual)

### Staff

Cyndi Tolosa (In Person)  
Michael Werner (In Person)  
Megan Baker (Virtual)

### Guest Speakers

Christina Volpe (In Person)  
Nadia Dillon (In Person)

### Members of the Public

Jennifer Crookes (In Person)  
Colin LaMontagne (In Person)

The meeting started at 10:04 a.m.

5 min. Welcome D. Merrill

Approval of Minutes from [January 21, 2026 meeting](#)

Motion: Steve Armstrong

Second: Melvette Hill

Discussion: None

Vote: Yes (10), No (-), Abstain (2)

- Welcome Ilene Frank/Farewell to Rob Kret

5 min. Affiliate Update - Barnes Museum N. Dillon

15 min. National/Regional Update  
• Federal Initiatives C. Tolosa  
• Nationwide Initiatives C. Tolosa

- Northeast Regional Planners Gathering recap R. Gonzalez
- 45 min. Work Plan Updates C. Tolosa
  - Sponsorships and 2026 Plans
  - [CT Visit CT250 Landing Page](#)
  - 250th Events - July 4 and Beyond
  - Action steps for commission members
- 30 min. Subcommittee Updates
  - Governance A. Orozco
    - [Affiliate](#) Update ([Spread the Word](#)) - Final deadline May 31
  - Community & Organizational Engagement A. Williams
    - [Town Committees](#) Update
    - Regional Affiliate & Local Committee Gatherings [recap](#)
  - Education S. Armstrong
    - [Local History Project](#) certificate - Deadline May 1, 2026
    - [My America](#) opportunity
- 15 min. Public Comment

The meeting ended at 11:26

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, July 15, 2026  
Location TBD