

AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

America 250 | CT Commission
Governance Subcommittee Meeting
Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom
Minutes

Watch Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v43WzdEnLLE>

Attendees

Subcommittee

Arienne Orozco, Chair
Jason Mancini
Michael Werner

CTH Staff

Cyndi Tolosa
Rachel Gonzalez

The meeting started at 10:03 a.m.

1. Minutes Approval
 - a. [April 8, 2026](#)

Arienne Orozco opened the meeting with an opportunity to discuss the minutes from April. No concerns were raised.

Vote to approve April minutes: Motion - Michael Werner; Second- Jason Mancini; Yes - 3; No - 0; Abstain - 0

2. 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

A. Orozco opened discussion on the affiliate application pool with a question about the application from the Office of the State Historian, which included the values statement from UConn rather than one specific to the office. Subcommittee members discussed whether this was of concern, and staff pulled up the application from the Museum of Connecticut History for reference, which as a part of the Connecticut State Library included the values statement for the library in their own application. In light of this, subcommittee members agreed that it was appropriate to include the values statement from the “parent” organization.

J. Mancini questioned the “no” response for a values alignment question on Connecticut By the Numbers’ application. This response was in reference to the planned programming question; as a news organization this group does not have any planned programming.

Vote to approve all 11 applications under consideration: Yes - 3; No - 0; Abstain - 0

This brings the total number of affiliates to 238.

3. Upcoming

a. Final affiliate deadline: May 31

Staff will explicitly invite commissioners that haven't done so on behalf of their department or organization to apply to the affiliate program prior to the final deadline.

M. Werner shared that CWSCEO placed an order from Bevin Bells, and legislators rang out their session with those bells. Video on their Facebook page [here](#). He also noted seeing increased news coverage of the state commission, which came out of yesterday's press conference with the governor.

b. Summer 2026 plans

C. Tolosa noted that there haven't been additions to the commission's summer calendar since the April meeting, however, New London will be adding an event in the fall. Staff will be putting together a listing of the larger events around the state that the commission should have a presence at and share with commissioners. This is likely to include a Juneteenth event in New Haven, tall ship in Greenwich, an October reenactment in Durham, and potentially a few other larger programs. C. Tolosa noted that staff will also be putting together a one-page listing of each town's primary 250th event, hopefully prior to next Tuesday's local committee meeting so it may be shared for additional feedback. This listing will travel to events around the summer and will be shared to commissioners and via CT Visit.

J. Mancini opened conversation on a "closing" for the year, potentially in late October or early November, tied to the right to vote/participating in voting on election day. Subcommittee members discussed the idea, and the potential of partnering with town clerks and/or registrars of voters. The Secretary of the State's office may also be able to help promote; A. Orozco will bring it to her team to think things through and see what might make sense.

4. Other Business as Needed

None.

The meeting ended at 10:38 a.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 10, 2026, 10:00-10:30 AM