

AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

America 250 | CT Commission
Governance Subcommittee Meeting
Friday, June 12, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom
Minutes

Watch Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJOiF2oVuo>

Attendees

Subcommittee

Arienne Orozco
Michael Werner
Jason Mancini

CTH Staff

Cyndi Tolosa
Rachel Gonzalez

The meeting started at 1:33 p.m.

1. Minutes Approval
 - a. [May 13, 2026](#)

Arienne Orozco opened with minutes approval. No comments or questions.

Vote to approve May 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

Arienne Orozco opened conversation on the affiliate applications. There were questions on the Save Our Stepney Taskforce that have not yet been resolved. Michael Werner cannot vote on the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity, & Opportunity application. Those 2 applications were pulled out of the full slate. CWCSEO will be approved pending confirmation from Denise Merrill and/or Deborah Schander. SOS Taskforce will be voted on via email if additional information comes through.

Vote on bulk of 23 applications:

Vote to approve 23 applications: Yes - 3; No - 0; Abstain - 0

CWCSEO:

Vote to approve CWCSEO: Yes - 3; No - 0; Abstain - 1; Additional approval received offline from Denise Merrill

This brings the total to 260 approved affiliates.

3. Updates

a. Summer 2026 plans

Cyndi Tolosa shared that there are many events planned around the state and Rachel will be sending out weekly updates to commissioners on highlights of what is happening in the next 2 weeks. When commissioners attend events, she requested that they introduce themselves to the organizers and thank them for the work they've done.

A. Orozco asked for information on what events the Secretary might be interested in attending in July. There is a listing of municipalities that have requested dignitaries at their events here.

C. Tolosa shared information about July 4 in Hartford - the commission will be hosting a moment on the stage at 7:00 p.m. and is looking for something impactful to include. A. Orozco requested information about tabling.

b. Municipal & Affiliate Stipends

Applications are still coming in. To date, we have received a combined 107 applications for the stipend.

4. Other Business as Needed

The meeting ended at 2:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 9, 2026, 10:00-10:30 AM