

Minutes of the Sudbury 250 Committee Meeting
on
June 5, 2024 at 11:00AM
in the
Silva Room / hybrid

Members present in-person: Radha Gargeya, Committee Chair; Jan Hardenbergh, Committee Vice-Chair; Rachael Robinson, Jim Weigel, Ex-officio Member Leila Frank

Members present virtually: John Neuhauser

Present virtually: Timothy Cobbett

Also present: Katina Fontes, Jane Sciacca

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM

Committee Roll Call: Gargeya-present, Hardenbergh-present, Neuhauser-present, Robinson-present, Weigel-present.

Jan Hardenbergh taking minutes for this meeting

Tim Cobbett was appointed to the Committee. He introduced himself. He is a teacher in the History Department at Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School. He was going to get sworn-in soon.

There were no public comments.

Presentations:

Dr. Katina Fontes, Athina Education, Goodnow Library Trustee,

How can we commemorate events like the Revolutionary War in a more inclusive manner?
How do we help to ensure that the stories of women and People of Color are not forgotten?
Pivot from a focus on battles to the lives of everyone living during this period; Sharing stories that are lesser-known; Inclusive commemorative activities.

Four women whose stories match this goal: Experience Wight Richardson, Jane Nemery Giger, Jerusha Haynes Wheeler, Nabby Read Bussey

Athina could do History presentations, forums and conversations, discussions about American political institutions and founding documents. What are the takeaways from the last 250 years?

Goodnow Library is willing to get involved but needs more information.

Ms. Jane Sciacca, Retired from National Parks Service (NPS), Author of 'Enslavement in the Puritan Village: The Untold History of Sudbury and Wayland'

Jane introduced herself as an "East Sider". 250 years ago, the Town of Sudbury included Sudbury, Wayland and much of Maynard. There were East and West Meetinghouses after the split of the Parish into the East and West Precincts. The Towns divided in 1780.

As a park ranger at the North Bridge in Concord for many years, Jane has a wealth of knowledge about Colonial Sudbury, pre-1780.

There was an enthusiastic discussion following Jane's presentation.

The question of our time frame came up, both in the events we are planning and in the period we are covering. The resolution was the Sudbury 250 committee is planning events and programs to run between April 2025 and July 4th, 2026.

There was a wide-ranging discussion about what period of time we should be focusing on. And whether we should be making a decision during the Jane's presentation. Many stories and ideas started well before the march to Concord and we may want to look at what the revolution made possible.

The book, *The War Years, Sudbury Massachusetts, 1765-1783* includes the warrants and meeting minutes for Town Meetings. This has a wealth of information about what was going on.

Member reports

Rachael has worked on some survey questions for the planned survey. More below.

Discussion of events, possible scheduling, estimated costs, finances, fund-raising

Radha complimented John on preparation of ideas about events email to Radha. Radha used this as the starting point for the discussion. Radha read each item into the record.

Declaration of Independence Reading

When: July 4, 2026

Location: Sudbury First Parish or Sudbury Town Hall

Time: after parade

Duration: 20 minutes

Estimated cost/expenses: \$500

Notes: Need to hire a professional reader, sound system, realistic copy of DOI

There was a discussion about reading the whole document as it gets very detailed about the Kind did this and that. Yes, we should read the whole this, but was need a really dramatic reading to hold people attention.

There was a strong preference that this should be outside, either on the Town Hall steps or Grinnell park. What at the vantage points? We should plan to have some screens for accessibility.

John's document will be circulated to the whole committee. Leila Frank will assemble documents for meetings into a single PDF such that are available alongside the minutes.

Battle of Red Horse Tavern

When: October 25, 2025 (October 26, 2025)

Location: Wayside Inn

Time: ~11:30

Duration: All afternoon event with engagement likely in early afternoon. Possibly a 2-day event

Estimated cost/expenses: \$1000-\$2000

Notes: This is an existing yearly event, but we will need to coordinate with the Inn if it is to be part Sudbury 250 celebrations as there is much that needs to be addressed, food for the public, portable restrooms, signage, volunteers, parking, police for traffic detail.

This is a reenactment of battle for control of the tavern and Boston Post Road.

Audio Driving Tour of Sudbury

There is a driving tour of Sudbury history sites on the Sudbury Historical Society (SHS) website. And an audio tour of the town center. These could be expanded.

Sudbury Colonial Faire and Muster of Fife & Drum Companies

When: September 27, 2025

Location: Wayside Inn

Time: 10am-4pm

Duration: daylong event

Estimated cost/expenses: \$1000

Notes: This is an existing yearly event, but we will need to coordinate with the Inn if it is to be part Sudbury 250 celebrations as it will be a much bigger event

The Sudbury 250 Committee could have a booth at the fair to recruit and advertise the calendar of events. We could produce a nice pamphlet. We may not have all of the events, but many of them.

The Town could provide a discounted admission to drive up attendance. How this would work was discussed. The admission collection is a major part of the Minute and Milita fundraising. Perhaps the Town would provide tickets that would be reimbursed.

Sudbury Colonial Day

Location: Sudbury Center (Heritage Park, Noyes playground, Loring Parsonage, First Parish Church

Duration: daylong event

Estimated cost/expenses: \$2000-\$4000 (depending upon how many vendors are invited)

Notes: An event encompassing colonial craft, trade and cooking(?) demonstrations, tours/talks of the Revolutionary Cemetery, pound, Parsonage, minuteman musket drills, kids toy musket drills, colonial games, period music, cannon firing (fundraiser), craft vendors(?), food trucks. Parking would be an issue! Need police details to manage traffic at crosswalks etc.

This would be organized by Sudbury 250.

After a long discussion of possible dates, the committee settled on April 26, 2025. It is a week after the Muster, but before graduation season starts.

Colonial Music Concert (Series?)

Location: Various, Martha Mary, First Parish, High School, Wayside Inn tent

Time: evening

Duration: ~2 hours

Estimated cost/expenses: ~\$1000/concert

Notes: Concerts should be period music

Some groups suggested were the Musicians of the Old Post Road, Fife & Drum (with an explanation of how the music was used to control the battlefield), The 4th Middlesex (very expensive)

Sudbury 250 Presentation Series

When: TBD

Location: Various, Martha Mary, First Parish, High School, Wayside Inn tent

Time: depending upon presentation

Duration: ~2 hours

Estimated cost/expenses: \$500 - \$1000/speaker

Possible topics:

- Henry Knox with cannon firing demo (nighttime)
- Colonial Gravestones with tour of Sudbury Revolutionary Cemetery
- Kids story hour with colonial craft (Goodnow Library)
- George Washington (John Koopman)
- Deborah Sampson (Jude Kalaora)
- The Empire Strikes Back and Resistance Becomes Revolution (Bob Allison)
- "Huzzah! Drinking with John Hancock during the American Revolution" Dr. Brooke Barbier
- "When Beer was Water" A history of the role beer played in the founding of America and the revolution (Vijay Joyce) This presentation was given to the Lynnfield Historical Society

Deborah Sampson was a woman, a young woman who actually disguised herself as a man to fight with the Continental Army. Jude put on an amazing presentation.

Other ideas are to incorporate the topics Katina presented, Jane proposed the lead up to the war, and a presentation on everyday life in Sudbury in 1776.

We should also involve the Goodnow Library. How can our school communities participate?

Coordination and collaboration with 250 Committees of neighboring towns

Jan will attend the Battle Road group meeting in the near future.

Review Sudbury 250 Logo submissions and a possible vote to choose

We had 4 submissions, one with 3 similar versions. Each version will be considered as a separate entry. The entries are: 01_Greenstein, 02_Hegelson, 03_Merrill, 04.1_Mooney, 04.2_Mooney, 04.3_Mooney

We will vote using 1,2,3. The lowest score wins. Radha will create a spreadsheet and send to the committee. Each member will send their vote to Leila who will tally the results.

Quarterly update to the Select Board:

Radha will send to the committee.

Survey

The survey to gauge the interest level of Sudbury residents in going to Concord versus staying in Sudbury was discussed. The 2 biggest things that we really need to establish in the survey are about April 19th, Are you going to Concord? Would like to see something in Sudbury instead? What events would interest you? The 5:45 AM muster? A Town Center Tour? As we would like to have the answers sooner, we delegated this to Rachael and Leila.

Radha asks for a motion to delegate the creation of a Sudbury Flash Poll to Rachael and the distribution to Leila. So moved by Jim and second by Jan. It was on motion 4-0. Gargeya -aye, Hardenbergh – aye, Robinsion – aye, Weigel – aye.

Future Meetings Scheduled

Previously scheduled:

Thursday, June 20, 2024, 7:00 PM in-person and hybrid

Wednesday July 10th, 11:00 AM in-person and hybrid

Scheduled at this meeting:

Wednesday July 24th, 7:00 PM in-person and hybrid

Wednesday August 7th, 11:00AM in-person and hybrid

Quarterly update to the Select Board:

We need to give a quarterly update to the select board. Radha will circulate a summary report prior to the June 20th meeting.

Vote to review and possibly approve the open session minutes of 5/1/24 and 5/22/24

Radha had a few corrections to the May 1st minutes.

Motion to accept the minutes of 5/1/24 as amended. So moved by Rachael, second by Jan. It was on motion 3-0. Gargeya-aye, Hardenbergh-aye, Robinson-aye.

Motion to accept the minutes of 5/22/24 as amended. So moved by Rachael, second by Jan. It was on motion 3-0. Gargeya-aye, Hardenbergh-aye, Robinson-aye.

Motion to adjourn

Jan made motion; John seconded. It was on motion 4-0. Gargeya -aye, Hardenbergh – aye, Robinsion – aye, Weigel – aye.

Meeting adjourned 1:32PM

Respectfully submitted, Jan Hardenbergh

Documents used during the meeting:

1. Sudbury 250 event ideas 5_30_24.docx
2. The four Logo submission emails and the six Logo images