

## **Minutes of the Sudbury 250 Committee Meeting**

on

**May 22, 2024 at 7:00PM**

in the

**Silva Room / hybrid**

Members present in-person: Radha Gargeya, Committee Chair; Jan Hardenbergh, Committee Vice-Chair; John Neuhauser, Jim Weigel.

Members present virtually: Rachael Robinson

The meeting was called to order at 7:01PM

Jan Hardenbergh taking minutes for this meeting

Jim introduced himself. John has been a resident of Sudbury for 41 years. He is a retired Colonel of the U.S. Army, a Trustee of the Wayside Inn, Sudbury Companies of Militia and Minute, an elected officer in the Ancient Honorable Artillery Company of Boston, Director of the Endowment and Director of the Military Historical Society of Massachusetts, and Vice President of Finance for the Mass Air Space Museum.

Radha gave some background for new member Leila Frank, the Select Board's Office Supervisor and Sudbury Information Officer. Leila could not make it due to a previous engagement.

No public comments

### **Members reports Regarding outreach and recruitment.**

Jan spoke with two board members of the Sudbury Valley Trustees. Still no SVT Sudbury 250 members. He also spoke with Lindsay Ketchel, who is the new executive director. She is open to exploring a walk event on SVT land. Robert Munro from Concord 250 replied that they hope to figure out coordinating buses on April 19, 2025 in the next few weeks. Jan will excerpt notes about the events in 1774, 1775, and 1776 from the Town Meeting Minutes and records and send them to the group.

John had just completed the April 19th events of the Sudbury Militia and had nothing to report.

Rachael had not been able to recruit any new members. At a recent Sudbury Historical Society Board meeting the question came up of what is the Town doing? There's definite interest in having a big event on **April 19, 2025** in Sudbury as many people will not be going to Concord. She recommends we conduct a survey to gauge people's interest in events in Sudbury vs. Concord. SHS is committed to do the cemetery tour this fall, which they do every year. This October we will focus it on specifically patriots, the people that were pivotal at that time. Rachael mention that Jane Sciacca will be joining us at the June 5th meeting. She was a Park Ranger at Minute Man for many years. And the Friends of the Goodnow Library are interested in some programming that would focus on the Revolutionary War, and that would be funded and hosted by them. She recommended that they come to the Sudbury 250 committee to work with them.

A discussion of whether the Sudbury Militia would be able to fire the muskets on the North Bridge. If we assume that is happening, when would they be available for an event back in Sudbury? After lunch there is the changing of the flag at the Wayside Inn.

Radha reported on an event called The Faded Memory women and people of color in the American Revolution and Beyond it was led by Dr. Katina Fontes and Dr. Benjamin Remillard. It was hosted by Athina Education and the Sudbury History Center & Museum in partnership with Freedom's Way National Heritage Area. Radha contacted Dr. Andrew Stevens, superintendent of Lincoln, Sudbury, and Mr. Brad **Crozier**, Superintendent of Sudbury. Public schools both have been extremely helpful. Two LS teachers in the history, department faculty are willing to join our committee, subject to their appointment by the **Select Board**. They are Tim Corbett and Josh Gilman and so what they said is they would like to share their attendance. Possibly both would come to each meeting, or probably alternate.

### **Discussion of the preliminary schedule of events and estimated costs**

We processed the list of items from the May 1st meeting:

Speaker series - proposed to run from April 19, 2025 to July 4th, 2026 - possible speakers

- Brian Plum on the Wayside Inn
- Tony Howes on Ezekiel Howe
- Native American Cultural Center folks for the Memorial Day Parade
- Bob Ellison, how the patriots stole the cannon,
- Steve Glovesky on the Knox Cannon Trail
- Research and presentations on contributions from Sudbury's colonial era residents
- What was life like in 1776 in Sudbury

Possible venues for speaker series: The Old Ballroom at the Wayside Inn, First Parish (Sudbury Meetinghouse), Martha Mary Chapel, Grange Hall, the Tent at the Wayside Inn.

There should be events for kids. Kids activities at events. Coordinate with the Library for story time.

Concerts

- Concerts with period music
- colonial music and the use of the various instruments and controlling the battle.
- Fife & drum concert should be outside.

Knox Cannon event - firing cannon

Members of the ancient Honorable who have cannons, and most of members actually have licenses like license to carry a weapon. It's a license to fire a cannon state of Massachusetts.

Ron Barnes from Rhode Island **can fire a cannon.**

Other ideas from May 1st were briefly discussed.

Sudbury Town Center Tours

July 4<sup>th</sup> Ball - probably not the actual 4th

July 4 Declaration of Independence reading (dramatic)

A Sudbury 250 float in the Sudbury July 4 parade

Mock Debate of Loyalists vs. Patriots

Contra Dancing may not get a lot of attention, but a Bridgerton Ball

We need to discuss the logo on June 5th, if we want to do like a launch brochure for July fourth.

### **Future Meetings Scheduled**

Wednesday, June 5, 2024, 11:00AM in-person and hybrid

\*\* needs rescheduling \*\* Wednesday, June 19, 2024, 7:00PM in-person and hybrid

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

### **Motion to adjourn**

Jan made motion; John seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned 8:36PM

Respectfully submitted, Jan Hardenbergh