

Sudbury 250 Committee
Wednesday August 28, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

(This meeting can be viewed [here](#).
All meetings can be viewed at www.sudburytv.org)
Virtual Meeting

Present:

Radha Gargeya, Chair; Jan Hardenbergh, Vice Chair; Tim Cobbett; Josh Gilman, John Neuhauser, Rachael Robinson

Radha said that this is a remote meeting duly authorized and we need to take a roll call.

Call to Order

Roll Call:

Gargeya-aye; Hardenbergh-aye; Cobbett-aye; Gilman-aye; Neuhauser-aye; Robinson-aye

Radha called the meeting to order as the quorum was met.

Radha will record the minutes.

Opening Remarks by Chair

Radha reported on the upcoming meeting next Wednesday (9/4/2024) at Lincoln Sudbury with Superintendent Andrew Stephens, LS School Committee Chair Ravi Simon, Lincoln 250 Committee Chair Kim Bodnar, History Faculty and Sudbury 250 member Tim Cobbett, and Cathie Bitter, LS School Committee member.

Radha said that he and Jan were originally planning on applying for a MA 250 grant for FY'24. As the process is fairly cumbersome, needs three sets of recommendations, and the due date was 8/26/24, Radha and Jan decided to apply for an MA 250 grant for FY'25.

Member Reports

John has the Colonial Faire attendance for the last two years and will report to the Committee later on with a cost estimate.

Rachael said that on-demand merchandise can be integrated into SHS (Sudbury Historical Society) store. Advantages are: not having to spend money upfront, not having excess merchandise at end. She will talk to Leila Frank about the budget, and select items that sell such as T-shirts and mugs.

Josh reported that it was the first day of school for SPS and L-S. Josh reported that he spoke the previous day at the L-S History department with his colleagues about Sudbury 250 and that he would act as a liaison.

Tim is looking forward to the meeting at LS next week with Sudbury and Lincoln 250. He would like us to explore how the student body, arts students, and boy scouts could be a part of the 250 celebrations.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

List of Events

The Committee started going through the list of events. Jan shared the document virtually with the Committee.

4/19/2025: There was discussion about breakfast and tour possibilities. John and Jan will talk to Steve Pickford of Wayside Inn. John prefers music and dinner inside and keeping it simple. Outside in April could be problematic possibly with rain and wind. His suggestion was to have a concert in the main dining hall, followed by a period dish. He would like us to push the drone show to later when it is not a school vacation week. As the dinner is a paid affair, it by definition would be a private event and not a Sudbury 250 event open to all the public.

7/4/2025: There was agreement about a Sudbury 250 float the Fourth of July parade. Rachael suggested that we ask different groups if they would perform music alongside the float. Only if none are available, we could go with pre-recorded music.

9/27/2025: Colonial Faire. Committee explored offering free admission to all for the Faire. John said there were 1,023 paid attendees in 2022, and 1,026 in 2023. The ticket was \$3 for 12 years and older. The \$3100 or so is the Sudbury Minutemen's main source of revenue, approximately \$50 to \$100 fees to 8 to 10 living historians. Rachael wanted to know how many were from Sudbury. John said he does not know as the Colonial Faire does not track the visitors' towns. Rachael suggested that we set up a donation jar where folks can contribute any amount they choose. The current estimate came to about \$4,200.

A motion was made by John that Sudbury 250 allocate \$4,200 for the 2025 Colonial Faire. Tim seconded the motion. A discussion was held about allocating the money now or wait till all the expenses for all the events are reasonably estimated. The motion was tabled.

The Committee wanted to revisit the topic towards the end of the year once we know the funding from the town and the state.

10/25/2025: Battle of the Red Horse Tavern, held on the last Saturday in October. It is a reenactment and a tactical demonstration with 100 colonials, 75 British reenactors. There are typically one private reenactment and two battles open to the public (before and after lunch). This event is pre-planned with 200 to 250 people dressed for various roles. It is generally a well-thought of event. Expenses will be porta-potties, and a possible police detail. We could request Boy Scouts for parking help. The initial estimate is about \$700 to \$1000 for porta-potties, \$500 for living historians, and a thank you gift to the Wayside Inn by way of a \$200 donation. For \$2K to \$3K, we can have a cannon demonstration.

1/25/2026 (Sunday): Knox Cannon. Jan said that they were in Framingham on that day in 1776. Jan suggested that we could do the event in conjunction with cannon firing. Rachael proposed talking about Ticonderoga trip details with a 45-minute lecture and going outside to see the cannon firing. John said that firing of the cannon can be easily arranged. Jan wondered if we should have a concert. Kids would love to see cannon firing. Rachael suggested passing a torch through the town like an Olympic torch and/or a horse drawn carriage for the cannon, followed by a lecture, and cannon firing. She said that Steve Glovsky gave a great presentation on the cannon in East Sudbury (now Wayand). It could span daytime and evening, and that it is a uniquely Sudbury event.

Spring, 2026: Sudbury 250 Day. What do we do on that day and where? Rachael's and John's ideas: bake sales (food from that time), games for children (reenactment), carding wool (hands-on), crafts for kids, food trucks, beer trucks, involve the youth (Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts), garden clubs (herbs), Verill Farm (for props). It was suggested to make this a big push event. Tim wanted us to find out about the admissibility of beer (alcohol) on the town property. Josh wanted us to check if there are other events in town around that time such as Relay for Life that might clash with Sudbury 250 Day. One suggestion was to have the event at other venues such as Heritage Park or Grinnell Park or even that it could be held over multiple venues.

4/19/2026: Similar to regular Patriots Day March. Not a Sudbury 250 event.

7/4/2026: Fourth of July event, a culminating event of Sudbury 250. A dramatic reading of the Declaration of Independence. Jan said to go big on this event. Could the Sudbury parade start a bit early so that the Reading of the Declaration of Independence is at Noon? Rachael wanted to know if the Road Race will be in the morning and if it could cut into the parade timings? An idea was that the Reading could be done by L-S students.

List of Other Events: The Committee began organizing the list of fifteen items by each member listing their top five events.

Jan: Knox Trail; Captain Bron & Ensign D'Berniere spies; Deborah Sampson; Ezekiel Howe; Native American stories; What was life like in Sudbury in 1776?

John: Deborah Sampson; Huzzah! Drinking with John Hancock during the American Revolution; Native American stories; Brian Plum on Wayside Inn; What was life like in Sudbury in 1776?

Rachael: Sudbury history before the Revolution (Sudbury Historical Society and Wayland Historical Society) presentation by Jane Sciacca (she was a Park Ranger at the Minuteman National Park (ideally presented before 4/19/2025); Book club with the Goodnow Library; Colonial Gravestones Tour at Sudbury Revolutionary Cemetery.

Josh: Gravestones Tour has definite educational angle; What was life like in Sudbury in 1776?; incorporate listening, imagining and seeing; People of Color and marginalized individuals and their stories at that time.

Tim: agree with educational angle of the Gravestones Tour; Native American stories that we do not highlight as much as we should; What was life like in Sudbury in 1776?

Radha: Deborah Sampson; Native American stories; a retelling of Jane Sciacca's talk about the role of African Americans (May 2024 talk at the Sudbury Grange), George Washington; Gravestones Tour; What was life like in Sudbury in 1776?

The list of topics above would form the main list. Items that are not mentioned above would be in the follow-on list.

Meeting Minutes

Jan motioned to accept the 7/24/2024 meeting minutes as edited by the committee. John seconded the motion.

It was on motion 6-0. Cobbett-aye, Gargeya-aye, Gilman-aye, Hardenbergh-aye, Neuhauser-aye, Robinson-aye.

VOTED: To accept the 7/24/2024 meeting minutes as edited by the committee.

Jan motioned to accept the 8/7/2024 meeting minutes as edited by the committee (check if Wiegel was there for the adjournment vote). Tim seconded the motion.

It was on motion 6-0. Cobbett-aye, Gargeya-aye, Gilman-aye, Hardenbergh-aye, Neuhauser-aye, Robinson-aye.

VOTED: To accept the 8/7/2024 meeting minutes as edited by the committee.

Future Meeting Times

Scheduled at this meeting:

Wednesday 10/16/2024 at 7 PM, in-person and hybrid

Adjourn

Jan motioned to adjourn the meeting. Rachel seconded the motion.

It was on motion 6-0. Cobbett-aye, Gargeya-aye, Gilman-aye, Hardenbergh-aye, Neuhauser-aye, Robinson-aye.

VOTED: To adjourn the Sudbury 250 Committee meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Radha Gargeya

Documents used during the meeting:

[Link to Supporting Documents](#)

1. Agenda for this meeting, 8/28/2024
2. Compiled List of Events
3. Minutes of the 7/24/2024 meeting – draft
4. Minutes of the 8/7/2024 meeting - draft