

# **Sudbury 250 Committee**

Minutes for Wednesday, July 30, 2025

Virtual (Zoom) meeting at 7:00PM

(**Meeting video** can be viewed at [www.sudburytv.org](http://www.sudburytv.org))

Members present virtually: Radha Gargeya, Committee Chair; Jan Hardenbergh, Committee Vice-Chair, Jim Wiegel, John Neuhauser

Radha noted the Open Meeting Laws with respect to Virtual meetings and that the meeting was being recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM.

Jim took minutes for this meeting

## **Sudbury 250 Committee Hybrid Meeting**

The Sudbury 250 Committee meeting was held as a hybrid meeting with Radha chairing from his cell phone due to Wi-Fi issues in the Silva Room. Radha called the meeting to order after a roll call vote determined that there was a quorum with four members present, including Radha, Jan, John, & Jim.

## **Faire and Tavern Event Updates**

The meeting covered updates on two major events: the Faire and the Battle of Red Horse Tavern. John reported progress on both events, including discussions with the innkeeper about public dining options besides the Wayside Inn and planning activities. He raised questions about police and EMT presence at the events, which Radha agreed to follow up on. Jim shared details about the Colonel Henry Knox artillery remembrance event, which will follow a similar format to previous Sudbury 250 events with a free public portion, honorariums for the Sudbury Fyfe & Drum, Sudbury Militia & Minute, and the Canon Teams with and optional dinner provided by the Wayside Inn in the Main Dining Room. Radha introduced Andrea Roessler, who recently applied to join the Sudbury 250 committee. She shared her extensive background in community involvement and volunteer work.

## **Sudbury 250th Anniversary Committee Update**

Radha discussed the Sudbury 250th anniversary committee's activities and responsibilities, including planning major events, presentations, and managing a budget of \$40,000. He invited Andrea Rosseler to help with fundraising and marketing. Andrea expressed interest but raised concerns about her ongoing commitment to the Concord 250th committee and the potential conflict of interest. The committee members agreed to make a recommendation to the Select Board pending Andrea's consultation with the Massachusetts Ethics Office.

Jan moved that the committee recommend Andrea for a membership on the Sudbury 250 Committee with the provision that she contacts the state's Ethics Office and that the chair forwards the recommendation to the Select Board Chair. John seconded. Hardenbergh -aye, Neuhauser -aye, Wiegel -aye, Gargeya -aye. The motion was passed.

### **Enhancing Sudbury Event Attendance Strategies**

John and Jim discussed strategies to improve event attendance in Sudbury, noting that other towns' events often involve more community members. Andrea shared her experience with the Concord 250th anniversary event, which involved a large committee and significant marketing efforts, including social media and a dedicated communications team. She suggested that Sudbury could benefit from additional marketing support and fresh ideas to increase attendance at existing events. Jim and John expressed interest in having Andrea bring new perspectives and marketing strategies.

### **Sudbury Garden Club 250th Project**

Joy DiMaggio, representing the Thursday Garden Club presented a proposal. The Thursday Garden Club of Sudbury discussed their plans for a 250th anniversary project involving a new pollinator garden in Grinnell Park, which has already been installed and approved by town officials. The club is also working with a landscape designer to connect walking paths from the flagpole to the World War One memorial and into the lower area, and has commissioned a granite rock with a mosaic tile to be engraved with a dedication to the town. The club has already installed two granite benches in the park, which will be relocated to provide better seating views of the gardens.

### **Memorial Dedication and Celebrations**

The committee discussed plans for a memorial dedication, with Jim suggesting it could be part of the Memorial Day celebrations in 2026, which Radha confirmed as a possibility. They agreed to place the new rock near the existing World War I memorial, and Joy proposed organizing a patriotic flower show to coincide with Sudbury Day in May. The committee expressed gratitude for the Sudbury Thursday Garden Club's work and discussed the potential to tap into their large following for support. John inquired about the possibility of demonstrating how plants and flowers were used in 1776, which the committee found interesting but did not confirm would be included in the event.

. The committee addressed financial challenges, noting they did not receive the MA 250 grant for FY26 and will pursue it again for FY27, while also exploring assistance from state representatives. Radha mentioned including a quarterly update to the select board in the packet, which was shared with the committee.

### **2025 Q2 Report to the Select Board Approval**

Radha presented a draft document listing completed and planned events, including presentations and collaborations with neighboring towns like Acton and Lincoln. The committee approved the document, with Jim and John providing input on readability and content. Radha was authorized to finalize the document and submit it to the Select Board, with a presentation scheduled for August 12th. Jan moved to authorize Radha to update the document and report to the Select Board at their 8/12/2025 meeting. John seconded. Hardenbergh -aye, Neuhauser -aye, Wiegel -aye, Gargeya -aye. The motion was passed.

### **Sudbury 250th Merchandise Commission Agreement**

The committee discussed a proposal from the Sudbury Historical Society regarding merchandise sales for the Sudbury 250th celebration. The Society suggested a 12% commission rate instead of the initially proposed 10%, with the difference going to the town. The committee agreed that 12% was reasonable given the Society's role in storing and displaying merchandise, handling credit card fees, and increasing foot traffic to their facility. They also noted that while the town provided the capital for purchases, the Society's contribution included providing storage space and handling sales year-round, not just during special events.

. Jim raised concerns about the markup being sufficient for both parties to. The motion to adopt the 12% split was made and seconded. Jan moved that the Sudbury Historical Society receives 12% of the sale price of an item and the remainder of the profit (that is, sale price of the item less the cost of the item) is received by Sudbury (for Sudbury 250). John seconded. Hardenbergh -aye, Neuhauser -aye, Wiegel -aye, Gargeya -aye. The motion was passed.

### **September Meeting Scheduling Challenges**

The committee discussed scheduling a meeting for early September but faced conflicts with several members' availability. Radha proposed sending out a Doodle poll to find a suitable time that works for everyone, including potential options on weekdays at 11 AM..

Jan moved to adjourn the meeting. John seconded. Hardenbergh -aye, Neuhauser -aye, Wiegel -aye, Gargeya -aye. The motion was passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.