



Sudbury 250 Committee

Final Report

September 22, 2026

Preamble

When in the course of commemorating the 250th anniversary of the commencement of the American Revolution, it became necessary for the Sudbury Select Board to establish the Sudbury 250 Committee on 5th of December in the year 2023, the Board submitted the following in the mission declaration: “It is anticipated that many of the observances will take place in the early spring through late winter of 2025, although the Committee may plan later events, such as the July 4, 2026 observances.”

Sudbury 250 Committee (“The Committee”, “We”) wishes to augment the commemorations by including Sudbury’s role in the events leading up to the American Revolution and beyond.

Purpose

The Committee agreed that its work will serve these purposes:

- To celebrate and commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution through various planned events,
- To have the said events take place mostly between April 19, 2025 and July 4, 2026, while encompassing events in the American Revolutionary history,
- To include and engage all Sudbury citizens, starting with our children and students,
- To tell and record stories that are untold or under-told, and
- To inform and entertain.

2025 Events and Presentations

- 3/16/2025: Inaugural **presentation** on '[Sudbury History: Before the Revolution](#)' by **Jane Sciacca** (author and former National Park Service Ranger) on 3/16/2025 at 4 PM, Martha Mary Chapel.
- 4/19/2025: [Sudbury Minutemen March on 4/19/2025 \(250th anniversary of Patriots' Day\)](#) at 5:45 AM, Town Center
- 4/19/2025: [Sudbury Celebrates 250 with Colonial Music](#) at 4/19/2025 at 4 PM, Martha Mary Chapel. [The concert can be viewed on SudburyTV.org](#)
- 5/18/2025: [Deborah Sampson: A Revolution of Her Own](#) – 5/18/2025 at 4 PM, Martha Mary Chapel, Presentation and re-enactment of Deborah Sampson, a hero of the American Revolution when she disguised herself as a man and joined the Patriot forces and served in the Continental Army, by **Judy Kalaora**
- 6/5/2025: **Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School – 250th Essay Contest**, Award Ceremony for 9-11 Grades, **Winners: Molly Hatcher** (Class of 2028), **Marin Raniere** (Class of 2027), **Goeun Rottman** (Class of 2027); Here is an excerpt from the essay contest announcement.
 - “This is an opportunity to reflect on the historical significance of this milestone and explore how the history of our local communities has shaped our understanding of American history and the foundational ideals of liberty, equality, and democracy.

Essay Theme:

Students are encouraged to consider the following questions in their essays:

- How has living near historic sites influenced your perspective on American history and the principles outlined in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution?
- In what ways do you see these promises fulfilled—or unfulfilled—today?
- What actions, whether personal or local, can help ensure that these founding ideals are fully realized in our communities?

Essays may explore any of these questions or other relevant themes surrounding the significance of the nation's 250th anniversary.”

- 7/4/2025: [2025 Fourth of July Parade: Independence Day – The Sudbury Way](#):
 - Parade successfully organized by the Sudbury Chamber of Commerce
 - Sudbury 250 Committee float donated by A Blade of Grass (thanks)
 - recorded music
 - thanks to Leila Frank and community members for decorating the float, which won 2nd place

- Town Manager Andy Sheehan, Select Board Chair Lisa Kouchakdjian, Vice Chair Janie Dretler participated in the 250 regalia (T-shirts)
- Sudbury Chamber of Commerce redesigned brand new banners featuring Sudbury 250 Logo and Town businesses along Route 20 Commercial Corridor
- 9/4/2025: [Global Village](#), a production of Sudbury TV, hosted by **Soterios Zoulas**; interviews John Neuhauser and Radha Gargeya about Sudbury 250 and upcoming activities
- 9/21/2025: **Presentation and firing of cannon** to commemorate the movement of **Ticonderoga Cannon** to Dorchester Heights under the command of Henry Knox, 9/21/2025, Wayside Inn Grounds; sponsored by Sudbury 250
- 9/27/2025: [Sudbury Colonial Faire and Muster of Fyfe & Drum](#), 9/27/2025, Wayside Inn Grounds; sponsored by Sudbury 250; Jan Hardebergh and Radha Gargeya at the Sudbury 250 table
- 10/25/2025: [Re-enactment of Battle of the Red Horse Tavern](#): 10/25/2025, Wayside Inn Grounds; sponsored by Sudbury 250; Jan Hardebergh and Radha Gargeya at the Sudbury 250 table
- 12/6/2025: Sudbury 250 table at the **Sudbury Holiday Village**, Fairbank Community Center; Jan Hardebergh, John Neuhauser, and Radha Gargeya at the Sudbury 250 table

2026 Events and Presentations

- 1/25/2026: [Henry Knox and the Noble Artillery Train](#), presentation by **Steven Glovsky**, Firing of Cannon by **Crane's Third Artillery**, 4 PM, Martha Mary Chapel
- 2/15/2026: [Wayside Inn Revisited: Rare Images & New Perspectives](#), presentation by Brian Plumb, 4 PM, Fairbank Community Center
- 3/15/2026: [Ezekiel How: Sudbury Patriot](#), second in command of all militia at the Battle of Concord, April 19. 1775; presentation by Tony Howes, Fairbank Community Center
- 4/12/2026: **Concert – What a Glorious Crash They Made**, Live performance of music and songs published in New England during the American Revolution, performed by **Richard Donohue**, Goodnow Library
- 4/26/2026: [Indigenous Origins: Sudbury, Massachusetts](#), presentation by **Hassanamisco Nipmuc tribal member Jasmine Rochelle Goodspeed**, 4 PM, Fairbank Community Center
- 5/16/2026: **Sudbury 250 Day**, Sudbury's own unique festival to commemorate the 250th anniversary, Sudbury Town Center, 10 AM to 3 PM, Sudbury Town Center

- 5/17/2026: [Each Hath a Hand: A Rebellion at Dawn, 1775](#), presentation by **Peter Abair**, 4 PM, Fairbank Community Center
- 5/31/2026: [Native Communities & the American Revolution](#), presentation by **Truman State University Emeritus Professor of History Daniel Mandell**, 4 PM, Fairbank Community Center
- 7/4/2026: [“We The People” 01776](#): 2026 Fourth of July Parade to mark the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, organized by Sudbury Chamber of Commerce, and participation by Sudbury 250 Committee.

We had total of 10 presentations or performances (three in 2025, and seven in 2026), eight events (six in 2025, and two in 2026), two contests (two in 2025), and one TV show (2025).

Donations and Fundraising

Sudbury Farms donated bagels, pastries, and water for the early morning (5:30 AM) attendees as the Sudbury Minutemen marched from Sudbury Town Center on 4/19/2025, the 250th anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord.

Sudbury Farms donated Sudbury-250-Logo adorned cupcakes at the evening Colonial Music performance at Martha Mary Chapel on 4/19/2025.

Sudbury 250 collected donations and sold merchandise to raise funds at 2024 Colonial Faire, 2024 Holiday Village, 2025 Colonial Faire, 2025 Battle of Red Horse Tavern, 2025 Holiday Village.

Sudbury Historical Society has been gracious in displaying and selling Sudbury 250 merchandise.

We pursued outside grants, sponsorships, and donations which defrayed our costs.

Outreach and Engagement

The big event for 2026 was the **Sudbury 250 Day on 5/16/2026** from 10 AM to 3 PM at the Sudbury Town Center.

We were committed to including all of Sudbury. We collaborated with our schools, community organizations, businesses, town historians, and various town committees and boards. The goal was to have the entire town and folks from neighboring towns turn up for the Sudbury 250 Day. That day and all the 250th events offered an enlivening, unifying, and reflective opportunity across Sudbury.

We also worked with the 250 Committees of neighboring towns to collaborate and coordinate our activities.

Budget and Finances

We are grateful to Sudbury Select Board and the Town Manager for allocating \$25,000 of ARPA (expand) funding to The Committee. We are grateful to the Town for allocating \$15,000 to the Committee at the Annual Town Meeting.

We are attaching a finance report for Sudbury 250. This is the draft of the final closing report. We verified the numbers with the help of the Sudbury Town Manager and Select Board's office. We got the final tally from the Sudbury Historical Society.

We also raised \$4,772 through the sale of Sudbury 250 Merchandise. We received \$536 in donations. Total expenditure for Sudbury 250 was \$33,233.

We are returning to the Town \$10,064. That is, we have spent \$4,936 out of the \$15,000 allocated at the 2025 Annual Town Meeting. This was achieved through careful cost containment, raising funds through the sale of the Sudbury 250 merchandise, and donations.

Epilogue

The mission statement of the Sudbury 250 Committee reads:

“The Sudbury Select Board established the Sudbury 250 Committee to plan for the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the commencement of the American Revolution. It is anticipated that many of the observances will take place in the early spring through late winter of 2025, although the Committee may plan later events, such as the July 4, 2026 observances.

The Committee will:

1. evaluate and make recommendations on how the Town should manage the commemoration of this historic event.
2. sponsor activities that commemorate and celebrate the place of Sudbury in the history of our nation.
3. ensure that all events are designed to involve and have outreach to all residents of Sudbury.”

The Committee stayed true to its mission and we hope we delivered activities and events that speak to the inspirational and aspirational goals of the American Revolution and Sudbury's unique role in that continuing endeavor.

We are a small but valiant and hardworking team on the Sudbury 250 Committee. Each of us had a role in organizing a set of presentations or planning some of the events.

The Committee met for a total of 51 times (16 meetings in 2024, 20 meetings in 2025, and 15 meetings in 2026) in open session, and three times in executive session.

All of us worked to put together the Sudbury 250 Day, were present as volunteers or in our other respective roles, along with many Town staff who helped us plan it and volunteered for many hours on that day.

A couple of us on the Committee were Sudbury Minutemen who also doubled as Minutemen for the 4/19 marches and the 7/4 parades in 2025 and 2026, and at the Colonial Faires in 2025 and 2026 and the Battle of Red Horse Tavern in 2025.

Of course, we were aided by the Town Historian, Jan Hardenbergh himself, in keeping us true to the history.

And the L-S history teachers, also on the Committee, who shared their unique perspectives as educators and parents of young children. Tim Cobbett and Joshua Gilman helped to plan and judge the Lincoln Sudbury High School's 250th essay contest. Tim Cobbett and family created two wonderful cutouts that were a hit during at the Sudbury Historical Society during the Fourth of July 2026 parade.

We had a wonderful partner in the Sudbury Historical Society who promoted Sudbury 250 and marketed and sold the 250 merchandise.

Finally, it is the town residents for whose benefit all this work was done. Thank you for participating in the Sudbury 250 presentations and activities.

It remains for us all to remember the message of the Declaration of Independence and transmit it with care to the next generation.

As the Sudbury Annual Town Meeting resolved on 5/4/2026:

“this Town Meeting expresses its firm conviction that the Town and the Nation will come together for the Tricentennial, for the 350th, and every fifty years hence in celebration of our continually inclusive and continuous Democracy that shall be, in words attributed to John Winthrop, “a city upon a hill – the eyes of all people are upon us.””

Acknowledgments

Work of this magnitude can only be done due to the help and hard work of many. Here is our attempt to thank everyone. Any omissions are unintentional.

First, we thank the Sudbury Select Board for establishing this Committee and for their initial grant of \$25,000 of ARPA funds, based on a recommendation by the Town Manager, and their counsel during our quarterly reports to the Select Board.

We thank Sydney Merrill and Robin Merrill for their Sudbury 250 Logo. This logo is now famous as it is displayed on all the merchandise, and on the Sudbury Chamber of Commerce banners along Route 20 in Sudbury. We received a total of six entries for the logo contest. We thank all who took the time and care to submit their entries.

The Select Board and the Town Manager's office, and the Assistant Town Manager and Director of Finance have been vital in coordinating the various activities and ensuring that they were successful.

Thanks to the Town Manager Andy Sheehan, Assistant Town Manager Victor Garofalo, and Leila Frank, and Maria Cataloni from the Town Manager's office. Special thanks to James Goudie-Murray, without whose help the Sudbury 250 Day would not have been possible. And Leila Frank who created the wonderful Sudbury 250 Day website, and the posters for all the events and presentations.

We had many town staff who volunteered their time on the Sudbury 250 Day. We also had some citizens and Lincoln Sudbury High School students who volunteered on that day. We are grateful.

Thanks to Representative Carmine Gentile and Senator James Eldridge for attending the Sudbury 250 Day and offering inspiring remarks. Thanks also to Town Manager Andy Sheehan and Select Board Chair Lisa Kouchakdjian for their thoughtful remarks on that day.

We thank all the presenters and performers, organizers and participants of the events, and students and residents who submitted entries to the contests. We also thank all the vendors, living history demonstrators, community groups, food trucks, and attendees of the Sudbury 250 Day.

Mark Thompson, Sudbury Director of Information Systems, helped us at every turn in ensuring that the technology served its purpose whether on the town website or at the Fairbank Community Center or at the various rooms where the meetings were held.

We had the superb guidance and assistance of our first responders, the Police and Fire departments, the Department of Public Works, the Combined Facilities department, and Health Department, which enabled the big events to be held safely and conveniently for all our residents.

We thank Police Chief Scott Nix, Fire Chief Tim Choate, DPW Director Tina Rivard, Combined Facilities Director Sandra Duran, Health Department Director Vivian Zeng and the staff of their respective departments.

And for the Commission on Disability for ensuring that our events remained accessible and the counsel of the Commission Chair Liesje Quinto and the guidance of Director Sandra Duran.

We thank Francisco Bucella, Director of the Sudbury Historical Society (SHS), Rachael Robinson, the former Director of SHS, its Board of Trustees, and Advisors, for their integral partnership with the Sudbury 250 Committee. Andrea Roessler, Vice President, SHS Board of Trustees for her invaluable help in planning and promoting the Sudbury 250 Day.

For the Lincoln Sudbury High School's 250th essay contest, we thank Kim Bodnar, Chair of the Lincoln 250 Planning Committee and a Lincoln Select Board member, LS Superintendent Andrew Stephens, LS School Committee Chair Ravi Simon, LS School Committee, LS history faculty and Sudbury 250 Committee members Tim Cobbett and Joshua Gilman – for their help in planning, implementing the essay contest. We also thank volunteer judges from Sudbury and Lincoln, and Tim Cobbett and Joshua Gilman for judging the entries.

Finally, Lynn Puorro, Executive Director, Sudbury Access Corporation, and Cliff McGann, Matt Cranston, and Terry Lockhart of Sudbury TV staff for capturing the events and the presentations for the benefit of the wider public. On the Sudbury 250 Day, volunteers Charlie Chused and Mike Puchulu assisted the Sudbury TV staff.

Respectfully,

Sudbury 250 Committee

Tim Cobbett	Faculty, History Department, Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School; Sudbury resident
Leila Frank	ex-officio member, Select Board Office Supervisor, and Information Officer
Radha Gargeya	Chair, Sudbury 250 Committee; Member, Sudbury Select Board
Joshua Gilman	Faculty, History Department, Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School
Jan Hardenbergh	Vice Chair, Sudbury 250 Committee; Sudbury Town Historian
John Neuhauser	Lieutenant Colonel, Commanding, Sudbury Companies of Militia and Minute
Rachael Robinson	(the then) Director, Sudbury Historical Society (4/2024 – 5/2025)
Jim Wiegel	Trustee Wayside Inn, VP Finance Mass Air Space Museum, COL. (Ret) US Army

	ARPA Funds	Town Meeting Funds
Starting Balance FY2025	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -
Total Revenue	\$ -	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 5,343.36	\$ -
Ending Balance FY2025	\$ 19,656.64	\$ -

Starting Balance FY2026	\$ 19,656.64	\$ 15,000.00
Total Revenue	\$ 3,840.99	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 24,435.76	\$ 7,697.13
Ending Balance FY2026	\$ (938.13)	\$ 7,302.87

Starting Balance FY2027	\$ (938.13)	\$ 7,302.87
Total Revenue	\$ 4,772.33	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 73.01	\$ 1,000.00
Ending Balance FY2027	\$ 3,761.19	\$ 6,302.87

Final Funds Available:	\$ 10,064.06