

CHARLESTOWN 250TH COMMITTEE
Thursday, October 24, 2024

Meeting minutes of the Charlestown 250th Committee held on Thursday, October 24, 2024 at the Charlestown Town Hall, 4540 South County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813

In attendance were Charlestown voting committee members: Deb Carney, Phil Gingerella, Dana Thomas Hall, Pam Lyons, David Monahan, Peter Slom.

Absent:

Non-Voting members (non-residents): David Shoemaker, Charlestown Parks & Recreation; Heather Paliotta, Executive Director Charlestown Chamber of Commerce; Andrea Spas, Chariho High School Principal

Absent: Jennifer Poore, Charlestown Elementary School Principal; Robert Whitaker, Chariho Social Studies Department Chair

Guest: Lauren Fogarty, RI250 Program Coordinator.

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 pm by Phil Gingerella, Chair.

MOTION BY Deb Carney, SECOND BY Pam Lyons TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY 30, 2024.

**Vote 6-0. IN FAVOR: CARNEY, GINGERELLA, HALL, LYONS, MONAHAN, and SLOM
MOTION CARRIED**

Chair Gingerella stated that he had attended the Town Council meeting on Monday, October 21, 2024 and gave a report on the current activity of the 250th Committee and some of the ideas being discussed for the semi quincennial in 2026.

Chair Gingerella further reported that he reserved "Charlestown250.com" and recommends the committee create a FB page. He noted David Moore from the General Stanton Inn would like to be involved with the 250th activities.

Loren Fogarty, RI 250 program Coordinator spoke about the State's actions to date. The state formed a 30 person statutory commission along with a budget and resources for advertising. They are working with the General Assembly for a RI250 Day and will be donating a "Liberty Tree" to each city and town for May 4, 2025. May 4 is RI Independence Day,

Chair Gingerella will contact the Chairs of Richmond and Hopkinton's 250th Committees to coordinate events that will include the Chariho School District.

Deb Carney reported on ideas that were discussed at other town's 250th meetings.

The committee discussed funding for the committee, including local businesses becoming sponsors for activities, donations from residents, and requesting money from the town, including the funds that were previously transferred from the Bicentennial Fund.

Chair Gingerella proposed creating four subcommittees and asked for volunteers.

1. Events & Tourism – Heather Paliotta, Peter Slom, Vicky Hilton/ David Shoemaker- ideas- Parade, Display, Scavenger Hunt, Fireworks
2. History & Research – Pam Lyons, David Monahan- Ideas – Historical photos and memorabilia, time capsule, update town history, time capsule, new book for the last 50 years
3. Promotions- Deb Carney, Phil Gingerella – Ideas – website, FB, 250th Town Logo, coins, banners, flyers, trinkets
4. Outreach & Coordination with the other Chariho Town and the Narragansett Indian Tribe- Andrea Spas, Dana Thomas Hall, Jennifer Poore – Ideas- School district members will coordinate with other schools, Tomaquag Museum- Westerly Armory. Phil will reach out to the tribe.

Peter Slom left the meeting at 5:05 pm.

Andrea Spas noted there may be an opportunity for students looking for community service hours to assist with celebration activities, or the students could make this part of their graduation project.

Public Comment- Stephen Stokes commented that the committee was off to a great start.

The next meeting will be held on December 5, 2024 at 4:30 pm.

MOTION TO ADJOURN by Deb Carney, second by Dana Thomas Hall.

Vote 5-0. IN FAVOR: CARNEY, GINGERELLA, HALL, LYONS, and MONAHAN

MOTION CARRIED. Meeting adjourned at 5:13 pm

Submitted by,

Deb Carney, Secretary

Charlestown 250th Committee