

CHARLESTOWN 250<sup>TH</sup> COMMITTEE  
Thursday, February 27, 2025

Meeting minutes of the Charlestown 250<sup>th</sup> Committee held on Thursday, February 27, 2025 at the Charlestown Town Hall, 4540 South County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by Phil Gingerella, Chair.

In attendance were Charlestown voting committee members: Deb Carney, Patrice Fenton, Phil Gingerella, Dana Thomas Hall (present as of 4:36), Pam Lyons, and David Monahan, Non-Voting members (non-residents): Vicky Hilton, Charlestown Parks & Recreation Director; Heather Paliotta, Executive Director Charlestown Chamber of Commerce; Jennifer Poore, Charlestown Elementary School Principal, Andrea Drake (formerly Spas), Chariho High School Principal

Absent: Peter Slom, Town Councilor (voting member)

Robert Whitaker, Chariho Social Studies Department Chair (non-voting member)

Guests: Carmen Matlock from Camp Watchaug, YMCA and David Moore, owner, General Stanton Inn

Chair Gingerella introduced Guests Carmen Matlock from Camp Watchaug, YMCA and David Moore owner of the general Stanton Inn. Both expressed an interest in serving as non-voting members.

**MOTION BY Deb Carney, SECOND BY Pam Lyons TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 5, 2024.**

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

Heather Paliotta noted an error in the dates of the Seafood Festival listed in the December 5, 2024, meeting minutes.

**MOTION BY Deb Carney, SECOND BY Patrice Fenton TO RECONSIDER THE PREVIOUS VOTE ON THE MEETING MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 5, 2024.**

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION BY Deb Carney, SECOND BY Pam Lyons TO AMEND THE MINUTES TO CORRECT THE DATES LISTED FOR THE SEAFOOD FESTIVAL FROM AUGUST 1,2 3, 2026 TO AUGUST 6,7,8, 2026.**

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION BY Patrice Fenton, SECOND BY Pam Lyons TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 5, 2024 AS AMENDED.**

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

**CHAIRMAN REPORT:**

Chair Gingerella reported on the following items:

- 1) He contacted both Samantha Wilcox, Richmond 250<sup>th</sup> Committee and Sylvia Thompson, Hopkinton 250<sup>th</sup> Committee to discuss areas in which the three committees could work together. Hopkinton currently only has two members on their committee. Charlestown will continue moving forward.
- 2) He will put together a flyer for the 250<sup>th</sup> Logo Contest which will be open to anyone interested in submitting a logo. Jen Poore noted the school uses Google Docs for anonymous voting.
- 3) He received correspondence from Lauren Fogarty, Program Coordinator RI250 Commission) with regards to dates for Charlestown's Liberty Tree to be planted. Chair Gingerella will request "Round 2" September 1-November 15, 2025.
- 4) 250<sup>th</sup> Day will be held on March 4, 2025 at the State House. Chair Gingerella will make an effort to attend along with Vice-Chair Pam Lyons.
- 5) The Charlestown 250<sup>th</sup> Committee now has an active page on the Town's website under the "Community" tab.
- 6) Chair Gingerella will start a Facebook page to post updates on upcoming 250<sup>th</sup> activities and events. Deb Carney will be secondary administrator for the page.
- 7) Charlestown will have our own Scavenger Hunt, independent of other towns

Subcommittee Reports- None

Timeline- Chair Gingerella distributed a draft Timeline for upcoming events. The committee discussed and modified:

- A) September 8, 2025 – Dedication of Liberty Tree – 5:00 pm, prior to the regular monthly Town Council meeting. Deb Carney will request a Special Town Council meeting for that date and time.
- B) December 31, 2025 – Official Kickoff Event at the New Years Eve Bonfire at Ninigret Park
- C) January 2026 – Townwide Kickoff- Release program for the year
- D) April 2026 – Play/ Performance -students- 2 performances: 1 during the day for students, 1 at night for the community. Jen Poore noted the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade curriculum includes RI History. Dana Thomas Hall noted the kids could write the play to highlight each town
- E) May 24, 2026 – Memorial Day Parade with 250<sup>th</sup> Float and banner. Heather Paliotta will coordinate.
- F) June 2026 – Outdoor tent event at General Stanton Inn- possible performances, displays, period type food, etc.
- G) July 2026 – Fireworks- Possible date- July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Heather Paliotta will coordinate.

- H) August 6, 7, 8, 2026 – Seafood Festival booth, banner, handouts. Heather Paliotta will coordinate.
- I) September 2026 – Historical / Grave Tour- Possible dates September 26 or 27. Pam Lyons discussed having a guide and others dressed up in period costumes and carrying lanterns. Could possibly get costumes from URI. Pam Lyons will coordinate
- J) October 2026 – Historical Scavenger Hunt- Jen Poore noted the PTO at the elementary school hosts one each year for the parents. They use QR codes and people get entered into a raffle.
- K) December 2026 – Time Capsule/ End of Celebration
- L) All of 2026 – Traveling Historical Display- Possible locations. Pam Lyons will coordinate
  - \*Library
  - \*Historical Society
  - \*Grange
  - \*Elementary School
  - \*Town Hall
  - \*General Stanton Inn
  - \*Wilcox Tavern
  - \*Police Station
  - \*Fire Departments
  - \*Nordic Lodge
  - \*Chamber of Commerce
  - \*Umbrella Factory
  - \*Senior/ Community Center

Chair Gingerella will put together a revised schedule.

Old Business- 250<sup>th</sup> Committee Budget Request - The committee requested \$20,000. Deb Carney will track during the budget process.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

**MOTION TO ADJOURN by Patrice Fenton, SECOND by David Monahan.**

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

**MOTION CARRIED. Meeting adjourned at 5:38 pm**

Submitted by,  
Deb Carney, Secretary  
Charlestown 250<sup>th</sup> Committee

Minutes approved on April 23, 2025