

CHARLESTOWN 250TH COMMITTEE
Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Meeting minutes of the Charlestown 250th Committee held on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at the Charlestown Town Hall, 4540 South County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 pm by Phil Gingerella, Chair.

In attendance were Charlestown voting committee members: Deb Carney, Phil Gingerella, David Monahan, and Peter Slom
Non-Voting members (non-residents): Vicky Hilton, Charlestown Parks & Recreation Director;
Absent: Patrice Fenton, Dana Thomas Hall, Pam Lyons (voting members); Heather Paliotta, Executive Director Charlestown Chamber of Commerce; Jennifer Poore, Charlestown Elementary School Principal, Andrea Drake, Chariho High School Principal, Robert Whitaker, Chariho Social Studies Department Chair (non-voting members)

MOTION BY Deb Carney, SECOND BY David Monahan TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 27, 2025.

Vote 3-0-1. IN FAVOR: CARNEY, GINGERELLA, and MONAHAN

ABSTAIN: SLOM

MOTION CARRIED

CHAIRMAN REPORT:

Chair Gingerella reported on the following items:

- 1) He attended a forum with other committees from around the state. We are further along than most other committees. Several towns took our ideas back to their committees.
- 2) 250th Logo Contest entries are coming in.
- 3) The first 250th Committee event will be the Liberty Tree planting on September 8, 2025, at 5:00 pm at the Charlestown Town Hall.
- 4) Fireworks are planned for July 9, 2026, as part of the Parks and Recreation planned food truck event at Ninigret park.
- 5) During the forum with the other towns, Middletown suggesting naming the June 14, 2026 event at the General Stanton Inn, "Family Day with the Founders".
- 6) The state committee will ask each of the towns to give an overview of their plans at a later date. Chair Gingerella will inform the committee when the date is confirmed.
- 7) The Cross Mills Library will also be hosting 250th events in 2026. They have four events planned.
- 8) Reminder to promote the 250th Committee on Facebook.
- 9) Review of Event Schedule:
 - A. September 8, 2025- Liberty Tree Dedication – 5:00 pm – Town Hall
 - B. December 31, 2025 – Annual Bonfire -250th Booth – Ninigret park
 - C. January 12, 2026 – Official Kickoff Event- 6:00 pm-Town Council Meeting

- D. April 2026- Chariho Students Play – Details To Be determined
- E. May 24, 2026 – Memorial Day Parade – 1:00pm – Cross Mills area
- F. June 14, 2026 – Family Day with the Founders -4:00 pm – General Stanton Inn
- G. July 9, 2026 – Fireworks Celebration – 9:00 pm – Ninigret Park
- H. August 6-8, 2026 – Seafood Festival – Ninigret Park
- I. September 26, 2026 – Candlelight Grave Tour – 8:00 pm – Cross Mills Area
- J. October 2026 – Scavenger Hunt Month – Town-Wide
- K. December 14, 2026 – Time Capsule/ Closing Event – 5:00 pm – Town Council meeting

Town History Roving Display:

January – Town Hall
February – Senior Center
March – Elementary School
April – Historical Society
May – Cross Mills Library
June – General Stanton Inn
July – Quonnie Grange
August – Chamber of Commerce
September – Charlestown Police Station
October – Nordic Lodge
November – To be determined – Local Businesses
December – Town Hall

Subcommittee Reports- None

New Business - None

Old Business- 250th Committee Budget Request - The committee requested \$20,000. Deb Carney reported the Budget Public Hearing will be held on May 5, 2025

Public Comment - None

**MOTION TO ADJOURN by Deb Carney, SECOND by David Monahan.
Vote 4-0. IN FAVOR: CARNEY, GINGERELLA, MONAHAN and SLOM.
MOTION CARRIED. Meeting adjourned at 5:17 pm**

Submitted by,
Deb Carney, Secretary
Charlestown 250th Committee

Approved on May 22, 2025