

**DRAFT**  
**CHARLESTOWN 250<sup>TH</sup> COMMITTEE**  
Thursday, March 26, 2026

Meeting minutes of the Charlestown 250<sup>th</sup> Committee held on Thursday, March 26, 2026 at the Charlestown Town Hall, 4540 South County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813

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

In attendance were Charlestown voting committee members: Deb Carney, Patrice Fenton, Phil Gingerella, Pam Lyons, David Monahan, Megan Pharo (present as of 4:40), Terri Shafer and Peter Slom.

Absent Members: Dana Hall.

Present Non-Voting member (non-resident): Heather Paliotta, Executive Director Charlestown

Absent Non-Voting members (non-residents): Vicky Hilton, Charlestown Parks & Recreation Director

Guests: David Moore, owner General Stanton Inn; Claire Dalidowilz, Members of the Block Island Sound Bikeway Ad Hoc Subcommittee; and Susan O'Donnell

**MOTION BY Deb Carney, SECOND BY Patrice Fenton TO TABLE THE APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

**Vote 7-0. IN FAVOR: CARNEY, FENTON, GINGERELLA, LYONS, MONAHAN, SHAFER AND SLOM (PHARO NOT YET PRESENT)**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CHAIRMAN REPORT:**

Chair Gingerella reported on the following items:

- 1) The Committee received a \$2500 grant from the state. The money will be used for 250<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Coins.
- 2) The next two events will be the (A) Elementary School Play and (B) the Historical Bike Ride. The play will be held on Friday, May 1, 2026, at 6:30 at the Charlestown Elementary School. Tickets will be free, but tickets will be tracked via a QR code to monitor the number of people attending. A second show can be added if necessary. Chair Gingerella stated he would like to extend invitations to the Secretary of State, the Town Council, Town Administrator and others. The Historical Bike Ride is progressing. The number of riders will be tracked. If more than 25-30 sign up, a second ride will be scheduled.

**MOTION BY Deb Carney, SECOND BY Patrice Fenton TO TAKE THE APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE TABLE**

**Vote 8-0. IN FAVOR: CARNEY, FENTON, GINGERELLA, LYONS, MONAHAN, PHARO, SHAFER AND SLOM**

## **MOTION CARRIED**

### **MOTION BY Peter Slom, SECOND BY Terry Shafer TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING**

**Vote 8-0. IN FAVOR: CARNEY, FENTON, GINGERELLA, LYONS, MONAHAN, PHARO, SHAFER AND SLOM**

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- 1) Memorial Day Parade – Chair Gingerella will purchase banners/ flags and decorations for the float. Pam Lyone will check with George Washington for his availability to participate in the parade. Committee members will walk and distribute the 250<sup>th</sup> Event Flyers.
- 2) July 9, 2026, Fireworks/ Food Trucks and Music night- Chair Gingerella reported there is a staff meeting scheduled for April 2, 2026, to make sure the town is properly prepared. He will also submit a Large Event Application to the Town Council.
- 3) Public Display- The display is currently at the entrance to the Town Hall
- 4) The Scavenger Hunt is in progress. Vicky Hilton is coordinating this event.
- 5) Seafood Festival – The Committee will have a booth
- 6) Commemorative 250<sup>th</sup> Book – Vicky Hilton will investigate
- 7) Time Capsule – Megan Pharo will investigate
- 8) Book of Cemeteries- Pam Lyons has a book which notes there are 94 cemeteries in Charlestown. Ten more have been discovered since the book was published. Cross' Mills Cemetery is the only public cemetery

### **MOTION BY Patrice Fenton, SECOND BY David Monahan, TO AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF THE \$2500 GRANT TO PURCHASE THE COMMEMORATIVE COINS**

**Vote 8-0. IN FAVOR: CARNEY, FENTON, GINGERELLA, LYONS, MONAHAN, PHARO, SHAFER AND SLOM**

(Deb Carney will order the coins)

### **MOTION BY Pam Lyons, SECOND BY Peter Slom TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR TO SPEND UP TO \$700 TO PURCHASE ITEMS TO PROMOTE THE UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Vote 8-0. IN FAVOR: CARNEY, FENTON, GINGERELLA, LYONS, MONAHAN, PHARO, SHAFER AND SLOM**

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Founders Day- David Moore reviewed the project plans, including historical characters, activities, food and beverage and marketing. Attendees will include George & Martha Washington, Betsy Ross, the Kingston Reds and the Gloucester Light Infantry. There will be kids' crafts, food, drinks & Betsy Ross flag giveaways.

(Peter Slom left the meeting at 5:17 pm)

**MOTION BY Deb Carney, SECOND BY David Monahan TO AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$2500 FOR FOUNDERS DAY**

**Vote 7-0. IN FAVOR: CARNEY, FENTON, GINGERELLA, LYONS, MONAHAN, PHARO, AND SHAFER**

Public Comment - None

**MOTION TO ADJOURN by David Monahan, SECOND by Megan Pharo.**

**Vote 7-0. IN FAVOR: CARNEY, FENTON, GINGERELLA, LYONS, MONAHAN, PHARO, AND SHAFER**

**MOTION CARRIED. Meeting adjourned at 5:23 pm**

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