



TOWN OF OLD LYME

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AMERICA 250 COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting

April 7, 2025 @ 4pm

Memorial Town Hall Meeting Room

- Call to Order and Welcome: The following members were in attendance: Cheryl Poirier, Jim Lampos, Mark Terwilliger, Christine MacGregor. Michaelle Pearson was an excused absence. Also in attendance was Allison Lang, representing the Phoebe Griffith Noyes – Old Lyme Library. The meeting began at 4:01pm.
- Round Table Discussion
 - General Activities at the State and Federal Level: Cheryl reviewed some of the federal and state efforts to date. It was noted that the State of CT is in partnership with CT Humanities for the CT250.org effort, and is organizing State and related municipal efforts. In addition, Jim reported that Michaelle is aware of (and attended an earlier meeting for) an effort among State Historical Society archivists.

Cheryl and Allie attended the CT250 conference on March 21 at UConn. The conference asked municipalities and organizations to focus on “untold stories; engaging people in history, telling inclusive stories, power of place, making history engaging by “doing history”, civic engagement (for the common good).

Cheryl also shared that CT250 is preparing with Governor Lamont an A250 Town Proclamation which will be provided to municipalities for adoption during the summer.

- Review of David Ruggles Day: The Board of Selectmen proclaimed March 15th as David Ruggles Day. The ExploreOldLyme.com/america250 webpage was launched in time for the proclamation, and included a blog post by Jim. The selectwoman’s newsletter, town website and Facebook page steered people to the blogpost and 88 people have clicked through to the blog post, 217 people have seen the 250 page as of today.
- Two Lights for Tomorrow: There is a national “Two Lights for Tomorrow” recognition of the 250th anniversary of Paul Revere’s ride to Lexington. The evening of April 18th, all are asked to have two lights in their window as a way to connect to history and “a uniting call to action for our citizens to celebrate and serve.” About 100 men from Lyme marched to Lexington after six deaths on April 19 and mounting British troops. Jim has a draft blog post that will be added to the website, and Cheryl will create a flyer for school distribution. Unfortunately, April 18th falls on Good Friday, which will mean some government buildings and businesses will be closed, and the Region 18 school vacation will be underway.



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- Mark updated everyone on the Historical Society's efforts to republish Bruce Stark's book "Lyme, Connecticut: From Founding to Independence."
- The Committee reviewed the topic list Jim created with possible blog posts. Jim also noted he would like us to also focus on the Town's agricultural history.
- Christine suggested we do outreach at the Midsummer Festival.
- It was noted that more committee members are needed to focus on festivities leading up to July 4, 2026.
- Discussion of Regular Meeting Times: The Committee agreed to having regular meetings on the fourth Monday of the month at 5:30.
- It was also discussed that the Committee needs a Chairperson, secretary, and perhaps a historian to track the activities of the America 250 Committee and the Town's celebrations.
- Adjournment: Mark made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Christine seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.