



# TOWN OF OLD LYME

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## AMERICA 250 COMMITTEE

### Minutes

#### Regular Monthly Meeting

Monday, June 23, 2025 @ 5:30pm  
Memorial Town Hall Meeting Room

- Call to Order and Welcome at 5:33pm.
  - In attendance: Acting Chairperson Cheryl Poirier, Christine MacGregor, Michaelle Pearson, Mark Terwilliger
  - Excused Absences: Jim Lampos, Allison Lang
- Motion to Amend Agenda:
  - Vote for Committee Secretary
  - Add discussion of Affiliate Organizations
  - Motion made by Mark, Seconded by Michaelle, Unanimous in favor. Motion carried.
- Secretary:
  - Michaelle nominated by motion Christine MacGregor as secretary.
  - Mark seconded the motion. Unanimous in favor. Motion carried.
- Approval of April 7, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes.
  - Christine made the motion to approve the minutes. Mark seconded. Cheryl, Christine, and Mark voted in favor of approving the minutes. Michaelle abstained as she was not at the meeting. Motion carried.
- Public Comment: There was no Public Comment.
- Round Table Discussion
  - General Activities at the State and Federal Level: Cheryl noted that funding cuts that support the humanities have affected CT Humanities original planning for America 250 events and activities across the State. They have issued a “Zero Dollar Plan” to support town A250 efforts. The State will be providing municipalities with Proclamation and Recommitment Ceremony possibilities as part of the “Zero Dollar Plan.” The State also has some America 250 materials and branded tablecloths for outreach events if we would like to borrow them.
  - Affiliate Organizations: Michaelle shared information from her recent meeting with area historical society archivists. Towns are doing a variety of activities and efforts including creating their own logos for the 250<sup>th</sup>, reenactments, patriotic concerts and parades. The archivists are discussing a region-wide passport promotion where members of the public will bring a passport to be stamped at historic locations around the region.
  - The Committee discussed what kind of town-wide event would make sense for the Town and a townwide picnic close to the July 4, 2026 date was agreed upon as a good focus, in addition to “piggybacking” off other events already in place such as the Midsummer Festival and Memorial Day Parade. Cheryl will create a comprehensive list/calendar for possible event tie-ins as well as the blog posts which will help guide the efforts of the Committee. Other possible ideas include a lecture series with OLHS and/or OL-PGN Library, access to the OLHS archives, a “One Read”



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promotion with the Library, colonial lawn games and crafts, and a Memorial Plaque in front of Town Hall, perhaps in conjunction with the Memorial Day Parade.

- Town History Blog Posts: Jim recently posted an article on Bunker Hill on the Explore Old Lyme A250 page. The Committee discussed other possible topics and authors to be included in the calendar.
- Review of Two Lights for Tomorrow: This event was well received by a number of residents, businesses, and organizations that shared photos of their “two lights” in the window in recognition of Paul Revere’s ride.
- Recruitment of Additional Committee Members: We can now recruit other committee members to focus on the townwide picnic idea.
- Festivities, Heritage, Civic Engagement Considerations:
  - Education: Christine and Cheryl will meet with the R18 Director of Curriculum. The State is expected to release this summer curriculum suggestions for the A250 theme.
  - Heritage activities might include sharing stories of residents and how/when their family came to the US. Discussed a map with pins to help share the stories.
  - Consideration of a “Boards and Commissions Fair” to engage people in civic duty, possible for November or sometime before January/February appointments.
- Outreach: Consideration of an online calendar.
- New and Other Business:
  - We will archive accomplishments and planning procedures for the Town’s celebration of the 250. Michaelle will lead this effort.
  - Cheryl will miss the next meeting (7/28) but can put together the agenda.
- Adjournment (6:41pm)
  - A Motion was made by Michaelle and seconded by Mark. The motion unanimously carried.

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