

**America 250 Committee
Special Meeting 6/30/2025**

Members present: Sarah Elliott-Caratasios-Chairwoman; Terry Grady-Vice Chairman; Sarah Rutter; Mary Maki; Samuel Newsom; Ben Srb; Aimee Morin-alt;

Members Absent:Linda Prelli (resigned);Sharon Hoy-alt;

Others Present: none

1. Chairwoman Call Meeting To order

Chairwoman Sarah Caratasios called the meeting to order at 6:03pm in the Mary Flood Room of the Waverly Center located at 7 Waverly Avenue, Portland, CT.

2. Roll Call: Aimee Morin seated for Linda Prelli

3. Approve Agenda

Mary Maki made a motion to accept the evening's agenda. Sam seconded. No changes were made and was voted in favor unanimously.

4. Approve Meeting Minutes

Members decided not to vote on the minutes as some members had not read/received them. Ben made it a point to add it to the next meetings' agenda to vote on the 6/9 meeting minutes in addition to the current ones.

5. New and Ongoing Business:

a. Signage

-after a brief conversation on fundraising, Ben Srb made a motion that Sarah, Ben and other members interested attend the BOS meeting July 16th at 7:00pm. Sarah Caratasios seconded and motion passed unanimously.

-Several members purchased yard signs provided by Sarah Rutter and we thank her for her contributions to the committee. The signs came out fantastic!

b. Promotions and Publicity;

-We became live on Give250CT.org to solicit donations

-Mary provided a Draft of Rack Cards to hand out at local places like the Library. It was very well received by the committee and we thank her as well for her thoughtful contribution and a creative idea to get the word out!

-There was a general discussion on writing rivereast articles and having a running article every week for the duration of the committee's time.

-more focused discussion of finances, how to get donation money and the process of getting the money turned into the finance department properly.

-There seems to be growing frustration about adopting modern and more convenient payment methods. The finance department has been pretty strict about cash or check donations only, but the committee feels that will hurt sales at events like the Portland Fair.

-It was discussed that New Milford has a QR code for donations and we want to find an example to present to the town Finance Director.

c. Event Planning

-After a brief discussion it was decided to move the family picnic to August 2nd. Not only would it increase availability of vendors by not having the event so close to the fourth, but there is a historical significance as well. July 4, 1776 is when the United States formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, however most members did not actually sign the document until August 2nd.

-Ben Srb made a motion to move the picnic date. Mary seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

d. Fundraising

-Terry and Mary got our donations page live on Give250CT.org

-Sam made a small proof batch of bumper stickers. He sold some to town residents and placed the remainder for sale at Tommy's Pizza. The committee ran out of time and did not discuss whether they wanted to go ahead with more of them. It was more or less tabled for a later time.

.6. Public Comment:

no public comment.

7. Adjourn:

****Meetings have been changed from the second and fourth Monday of the month to just the fourth Monday of every month. Same location and time; 6:00 pm in the Mary Rice Room of the Waverly Senior Center****

Next meeting was slated for July 28th

Ben motion to adjourn and Sarah seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously and was adjourned at 7:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Newsom
Committee Secretary