

America 250 | PortlandCT Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2025

Members Present: Sarah Elliott-Caratasios-Chair, Terry Grady-Vice Chair, Sharon Hoy-alt., Mary Maki, Samuel Newsom, Linda Prelli, Sara Rutter, Ben Srb

Members Absent: none

Others Present: none

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Sara Elliott-Caratasios called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM in the Senior Center located at 7 Waverly Avenue, Portland, Connecticut.

2. Roll Call/Introduction of Members

3. Approve Agenda

Sam Newsom made motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Sharon Hoy. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

4. Approve Meeting Minutes

Mary Maki made motion to approve the minutes of March 31, 2025, seconded by Linda Prelli. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

5. Discuss:

a. Possible dates

It was discussed a potential family day on July 5th, 2026 at the Riverfront Park. Also discussed was a ceremony on July 4th, 2026 at the town hall to unveil a 250th commemorative plaque and time capsule at the town hall. Also discussed was manning a booth at this year's Portland Fair.

b. Ideas to promote committee/events;

Discussed was a fundraiser selling the vintage "I'm From Portland, CT..." t shirts and Portland/America 250 merchandise at the Portland Fair. It was brought up to start obtaining funds and donations to get this process started. Terry also started a Portland 250 Facebook page and started with community involvement. It was also mentioned having a press release in the Middletown Press/River East and a page on the town website. Sarah Caratasios also mentioned getting banners for Main St.

c. Determine funding needed;

It was unilaterally agreed upon we got payment and donation accounts set up. 4 major funding events were determined; a fireworks display; a monument or plaque; a family day event, and a parade float. We need to determine a monument and time capsule budget. Possible food trucks or pay-to-play food vendors at family day was also talked about. Terry mentioned getting an insurance policy for family day.

d. Revenue fundraisers

We discussed selling t shirts and merch at the Portland Fair this year. We also discussed having an essay contest with the winner having their essay in the time capsule and a t shirt design contest with the schools to have a shirt designed for sale in time for Family Day. It was also discussed selling beer mugs and bumper stickers.

e. Volunteer involvement;

It was discussed to “piggyback” with the Fair Committee for certain events. We also discussed getting the schools involved and to date we have no representative or liaison on the committee.

f. Coordinating with Middletown;

It was talked about that it makes sense to coordinate fireworks with Middletown.

6. Public comment

7. Adjourn

Sharon Hoy made motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ben Srb. Vote unanimous, meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel Newsom, Committee Secretary