

America 250 Committee

Special Meeting 9/15/2025

Members present: Sarah Elliott-Caratasios-Chairwoman; Terry Grady-Vice Chairman and Treasurer; Samuel Newsom-Secretary; Ben Srb; Mary Maki; Susan Bransfield; Aimee Morin-alt;

Members Absent: Sharon Hoy;

Others Present: Scarlett Srb; Bob McDougall

1. Chairman Call Meeting To order

Chairwoman Sarah Caratasios called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the Mary Flood Room of the Waverly Center located at 7 Waverly Avenue, Portland, CT.

2. Roll Call: Aimee Morin seated for Sharon Hoy

3. Approve Agenda

We made no motion to accept the evening's agenda as it was a Special Meeting and was not made an agenda item.

4. Approve Meeting Minutes

Mary made a motion to accept the minutes. Sam seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion/Action on Committee Participation in Annual Agricultural Fair:

-This was a special meeting specifically convened for the purpose of taking any last minute actions regarding our participation in the Portland Fair. The dates are October 3,4 and 5.

-Sarah is reminded to obtain a stack of Rubbermaid bins to place the shirts in.

-Sam had previously made some bumper stickers for the committee and due to the late nature offered to purchase more with his own money for the committee to sell at the fair. Terry made a motion to move this forward and Ben seconded, the motion passed unanimously. Sam will be reimbursed by the committee at a later date minus any taxes paid.

-We need to bring tables from the senior center down and obtain some appropriate table cloths. Sarah is also going to reach out to the CT250 committee to try and obtain their tabling kit.

-We discussed times and dates and established coverage for members to volunteer and man the sales tent.

-Terry agreed to take accountability for the cash box and Ben is in charge of securing the shirts at the end of every night.

-We have been assured there is appropriate insurance coverage for the event.

-Sarah mentioned the idea of making Kim Congdon our committee treasurer. We voted Terry as the treasurer previously and are not sure if Kim would need to be a member on the committee or not, but there was no major opposition to her potentially handling our money.

-Sarah is going to get some candy to hand out to the kids, and do a writeup in the river east advertising our shirt sales.

-Even though this didn't pertain to the fair, a yard sign idea was floated around for getting "\$250 for 250) yard signs made up for people who donated at least \$250 to our committee. Four potential sign ideas were floated around but there was unanimous disagreement between members and no progress was made.

-Sue Bransfield and Bob McDougall spoke to the committee and invited to host our next meeting at the Historical Society, which we obliged. They requested 15 minutes of our time for a presentation at the next meeting, and want to get the 250 committee more involved in an oral history project of Portland.

.6. Public Comment:

-Bob McDougall said to keep up the good work!

7. Adjourn:

Next regular meeting was scheduled for 9/22/25 at the Portland Historical Society, located at 492 Main Street.

This was inaccurately reported in the previous minutes as 9/29. We meet on the fourth monday of the month, so the next meeting is 9/22

Meeting location has also been changed from the Senior Center to the Historical Society located at 492 Main Street

Ben made motion to adjourn and Mary seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously and was adjourned at 7:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Newsom
Committee Secretary