

**RESOLUTION**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
Town of Portland, Connecticut

**December 30, 2024**

**RESOLUTION CREATING THE AMERICA 250 | PORTLANDCT COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the formation of the United States of America will occur on July 4, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut is embarking on a multi-year commemoration, celebration, and reflection on the 250th Anniversary of the American War for Independence; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress established the United States Semiquincentennial Commission to provide for the observance and commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States and related events through local, state, national, and international activities, planned, encouraged, developed, and coordinated by a national commission representative of appropriate public and private authorities and organizations; and

WHEREAS, the United States Semiquincentennial Commission encourages states to establish state-level commissions to plan and coordinate activities within each state celebrating the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of the Connecticut Semiquincentennial Commission will enhance tourism, economic development, historic education and preservation, and outdoor recreation within the state; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Semiquincentennial Commission will coordinate, engage, and liaise with the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, and other local, county, and state commissions, as well as private and public organizations and partners, including, but not limited to, the America 250 Foundation and the American Battlefield Trust; and

WHEREAS, the Commission will develop, encourage, and execute an inclusive celebration, commemoration, and observance of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence through civic, cultural, and historical education events and programming; and

WHEREAS, the Commission will promote the documentation, identification, and preservation of cultural and historic resources, including archives, buildings, landscapes, objects, and sites related to the semiquincentennial period; and

WHEREAS the America 250 CT Commission was established to support the state in commemorating this milestone and to reflect on both the past 250 years and the shared future ahead; and

WHEREAS the Town of Portland seeks to both commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and also to focus on engaging Portland's community by involving the public in preserving local history, and the ways in which Portland's residents have and continue to shape the fabric of our town.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portland Board of Selectmen, pursuant to Sec. 405 (5) of the Portland Charter, do hereby creates

### **250 America | PortlandCT Committee:**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the purpose of the Committee is to plan and coordinate community events and displays commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Independence and celebrating Portland's contributions, experiences, and history; be it further

RESOLVED, the Committee will coordinate with the America 250 | CT Commission and work together to explore how to best celebrate our residents and honor our Town's place in American history. The Committee will coordinate with community groups, such as but not limited to: the Portland Historical Society, Friends of the Library, the Lions Club of Portland, the Hemlock Grange, Portland Public Schools, Veterans Affairs Committee, local churches, and other civic organizations in creating community events. The Committee will plan, coordinate, and sometimes may supervise these events during the yearlong celebration. The Committee may coordinate historic-themed educational displays throughout the Town celebrating America's successes and explaining America's challenges and how we as a Town, State, and Nation persevered to overcome them. The Committee is charged to be creative in our Town commemorates the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the American experience as lived by our residents, past and present, in Portland, Connecticut.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Committee shall consist of seven (7) members of the public and two (2) alternates. The terms shall be for the life of the Committee which is not to exceed December 31, 2026 unless extended by the Town Board of Selectmen by Resolution. The following are invited to be members of the Commission:

- The Town Clerk, or their designee
- The Library Director, or their designee;
- A Portland Historical Society officer;
- A member of Portland Public Schools
- A representative of the Portland Library Board or Friends of the Library

The First Selectman shall appoint a chair and vice-chair from among the members of the Commission. The secretary shall be elected from among the remaining members.

Members of the Committee shall not receive any compensation for their service.

Members of the Commission shall be subject to the Portland Codes of Ethics.

The Commission and members of the Commission shall be subject to the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act, which are found in Chapter 14 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The meeting minutes shall be taken by the Committee Secretary and record of such minutes shall be kept in the office of the Town Clerk.

The Committee shall hold regular, publicly-noticed open meetings at least monthly and may hold additional special meetings as needed. The Chair and/or Vice Chair shall report periodically to the Board of Selectmen of the Committee's plans, progress and activities.

The Commission shall further:

- i. Develop, encourage, and execute an inclusive celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the Revolutionary War, and the founding of the United States

of America as well as to boost civic engagement through highlighting untold stories, engaging local communities, and encouraging public participation in history;

- ii. Coordinate, engage and liaise with the US Semiquincentennial Commission, 250 America Connecticut, and other state and local commissions and private and public organizations and partners;
- iii. Submit an action plan to the Board of Selectmen by [June 1, 2025], that outlines the Committee's recommendations that includes any action plan, implementation benchmarks, and related deadlines and schedules;
- iv. Commemorate the semiquincentennial of the American Revolution and Portland's participation and contributions to it, including, but not limited to, developing activities that recognize and tell inclusive stories about the historic, social, legal, cultural, and political forces that caused the American Revolution and influenced its course and outcomes; and celebrating the "power of place" by highlighting Portland's unique identity and contributions to America and Connecticut over the last 250 years;
- v. Facilitate events and activities that align with America 250 Connecticut themes including but not limited to American Revolution-related activities and events throughout the town;

This resolution passed and adopted by the Portland Board of Selectmen, Connecticut, on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of December in the year 2024.



Attest: Michael V. Tierney, Portland Town Clerk

*January 2, 2025*

**Approved by  
Board of Selectmen**

