

Received 7/9/25
10:20 AM Jodi Moore, ATC

America 250
SUB COMMITTEE – Townwide Celebration Picnic on the Green
Minutes
Meeting: 7-7-25 – Community Center
No zoom

In attendance: Carolyn Havrda, (ex-officio) Chris Balay, Wendy Manemeit
Absent: Leah Gastler, Sarah Atwell

Meeting called to order by member Wendy Manemeit at 6:30 pm

Date and time of event

Discussion on date and time of the *Celebrate Americas 250 Townwide Picnic*
The date of Saturday May 30, 2026, with a time frame of 4-8 pm on the town green was agreed on.

Type of event

Discussion on whether the event is a fundraiser or a free event. Decided that this should be a townwide celebration using already raised funds. However, we agree to set up a historical “container” for donations. I.e: a butter churner, etc.

Public Safety

Parking – it was decided to ask the Durham Fair for permission to park on the fairgrounds via Canfield Lane. Possible transport from Parking lot to Town Green via hay wagon. Handicap will be at the library. Will need State Police coverage.

Infrastructure

Would like to propose closing Main Street from the south side of the intersection by the USPS, going south to the end of the green. This plan would only be for the hours of the event, plus 2 hours prior. It’s a total of 6 hours. Using Main St as part of the infrastructure will allow more guests, eliminates dangerous road along side of event, no need for fencing.

The band/stage would be on Main Street, facing west, center to the green. Hoping to use a hay wagon as a stage.

In front of the stage there would be an area blocked off for dancing and old-fashioned games. (ie tug o war, wheelbarrow race, etc) Will be asking Recreation Committee to assist.

Will not allow pop up tents.

Need an electrician, particularly for the needs of the band/stage.

Bathrooms- would like to order a few portalets.

Food and Drink

Townsfolk will be encouraged to bring their own picnic basket and drinks.
Would like several food truck vendors to align on Town House Rd.

Event Activities

- Pick up Band. Leah to handle. Maybe they could march around the green.
- ceremonial welcome – First Selectman
- Large Birthday cake. Would like a large sheet cake and pick a name out of a hat to cut it and keep the ceremonial knife.
- Townwide singing of Happy Birthday
- ‘old fashioned’ games. Would like Rec to run them.
- hoping to get America 250 ribbons for the games.
- contest for best Patriotic Outfit. awards
- popular band for dancing (maybe Durham Rec could sponsor)
- tug o war set up competition between neighborhoods. Gift card for Pizza for the winner.

Next Step:

Meet with the full America 250 committee to discuss all of the above.

Meeting adjourned: 7:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Manemeit
Committee member

