

Received 10/10/25
2:28 PM Jodi Moore, ATC

Town of Durham
America 250 Committee
Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
Meeting Room 1, Community Center, and Remote via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Recording

Passcode: t+.7=tp1

1. Call to order and roll call

Chair Sarah Atwell called the America 250 Committee meeting of Tuesday, September 16, 2025, to order at 6:30 p.m. Also present: Brendan Rea Jr., First Selectman Rea, Jonathan Field, Chris Balay, Bob Booz, Carolyn Havrda, Jaclyn Lehet, Frances Augur, Aliyah Watson and Brian Mederios.

2. Approval of agenda

MOTION BY CHRIS BALAY, SECONDED BY BOB BOOZ TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. VOTE: ALL AYE

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes: August 19, 2025

MOTION BY BOB BOOZ, SECONDED BY BRENDAN REA JR., TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 19, 2025, AS PRESENTED. VOTE: ALL AYE (1 ABSTAIN C. BALAY)

4. Establish a calendar of events

S. Atwell would like to establish a draft calendar of events for 2026. It was noted that the committee could attend some established town events in 2025 to get the word out. Such as Durham Fair, Trunk or Treat, Holiday tree lighting.

a. January

Ideas discussed: Library Display Case, movie night/documentary collaboration with the library, 50/50 raffle, no cost fundraising event to kick off the year. B. Booz will talk with Library Director Lauren Redfield.

Indoor Lectures.

b. February

Indoor Lectures.

- c. March
Indoor Lectures.
- d. April
Outdoor Lectures, ideas: cemetery tours, pest hour tours, town green, historic homes, etc.

Treasure Hunt Idea, unsure of month for this?

- e. May
Memorial Day Parade
- f. June
Town Wide picnic, June 6th: the committee agreed the picnic will be scaled down and held at the Community Center (rather than the town green/fairgrounds). Ideas discussed: patriotic themes, bands, old fashion games, all American games (pie eating contest), incorporation of arts, will need a lot of coordinator with the Recreation Director and Recreation Committee.

City of Middletown parade involved somehow but more to come.

- g. July
Declaration of Independence reading on 4th of July
- h. August
Break?
- i. September
Break – town busy with Durham Fair
- j. October
Encampment: the Durham Fair confirmed there are dates available in October for the event on the fairgrounds. Preferred dates are October 17th and 18th. Encampment could be the final event of 2026.

5. Draft letters

- a. Soliciting for donations
The members reviewed a draft letter to solicit donation from the public and made minor revisions. The QR code for Venmo/PayPal will be added and then the letters will be ready to be sent out. The website will be updated to include a sponsor page. The members discussed the idea of shooting a commercial through Valley Shore.

- b. Invitation to Revolutionary War Reenactment units
Letters need to be sent out in November.

6. Subcommittee updates

- a. Encampment – Discussed
- b. Picnic – Discussed
- c. Social media- websites, QR codes, Facebook, Instagram
Social media accounts need to be created/confirmed for the next meeting.

7. Committee member comments

None.

8. Public comment

None.

9. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaclyn Lehet