

Charge for America 250 Committee

Board of Selectmen

Approved on December 16, 2024

Charge:

In 2026, the United States of America will mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Durhams America 250 Committee purpose is to plan, develop and coordinate community events and activities surrounding the 250th anniversary.

State of CT Effort and Themes:

The State of CT along with CT Humanities is coordinating statewide efforts with a special emphasis on enhancing tourism, economic development, outdoor recreation, and historic education and preservation. The State has developed four key themes as inspiration for municipalities such as Durham in commemorating the 250th anniversary:

1. **Tell Inclusive Stories:** Tell stories that represent all people, past and present.
2. **Power of Place:** Highlight the unique identities and contributions of our place, Durham, Connecticut.
3. **Doing History:** Invite the public to participate in the process of "doing history." Create a collaborative environment and provide access for all cultural experiences.
4. **For the Common Good:** Encourage civic engagement to continue to build our communities, state, and nation using democratic ideals outlined in our founding documents.

Duties/Responsibilities:

- The Committee shall encourage and coordinate events and programs across Durham to ensure appreciation and understanding of Durham and Americas history
- Coordinate and engage with community groups, local businesses, civic organizations, cultural and religious organizations, Regional School District #13 and State of Connecticut's America 250 | CT Commission
- Work with organizations to enhance existing town events (such as Memorial Day Parade) to promote American 250. Ensure events are inclusive, accessible, and collaborative.
- Create and distribute communications, including webpage updates and print pieces that promote America 250
- Develop a potential budget for the creation and publicizing of events, seek grants where applicable

Membership:

The Committee shall consist of 9 members who shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Members' terms shall expire December 31, 2026. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary and shall establish a regular meeting schedule. All records of the Committee shall be filed with the Town Clerk and open to public inspection in accordance with applicable State Statutes. Members shall serve without compensation.

Membership should include Representatives from the following:

- (1) Durham Historical Society
- (1) Economic Development Commission
- (1) Durham Library Board of Trustees or Durham Library staff member
- (1) Durham Fair Association
- (1) Town Historian
- (1) Durham Cemetery Company
- (1) Veteran Representative
- (1) Public Member
- (2) Youth Representative
- (2) Youth Representative

Sarah Atwell, 12/31/26
Leah Gastler, D, 12/30/26
Bob Booz, R, 12/31/26
Wendy Manemeit, R, 12/31/26
Francis Korn, 12/31/26
Jonathan Field, 12/30/26
Brendan Rea Jr., R, 12/31/26
Chris Balay, D, 12/30/26
Aaliyah Watson, 12/30/2026
Frances Augur, 12/30/2026

Ex-Officio

Brendan Rea

Ex-Officio Staff, Non-Voting

Carolyn Havrda, Community Center
Jaclyn Lehet, Town Hall
Brian Medeiros, Recreation Director