

250th Celebration Committee
Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2023

Present: Kevin McNatt, Matthew Cook, Robert MacDonald, Linda McCabe, Nancy Griffin, Eileen Cusack, Lou Andrews, Teresa Murphy, Susan Feely, Robin O'Brien, Nicole Burch

Not Present: Caitlin Barrows, Catherine Coyne, Kevin Dumas, and Elyre Stanislaus
Guest:, Mary Hourigan, Council on Aging (COA) Board Member

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERKS OFFICE
2023 JUN 21 10 06 58
MANSFIELD
MASSACHUSETTS

1. Open meeting

Chair MacDonald called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM and reviewed the Meeting Agenda.

2. Overview by Town Manager

Mr. Obrien asked about the objectives of the Committee, which were directly read from the town website. Ms. Griffin emphasized the Committee's ownership of the 250th celebration activities from creation to the execution of chosen events, with the focus on quality, not quantity. The Committee is also responsible for funding and fundraising throughout the process.

3. Introduction of Committee Members

A meeting guest was introduced, Mary Hourigan, who advocated that a member from Council on Aging (COA) and the Congregational church be involved. She also offered her support to the Committee.

The present members self-introduced and shared their reasons for serving on the 250th Celebration Committee.

4. Approval of Minutes from April meeting

Ms. Griffin reviewed the approval process with the Committee. There were no changes to the minutes. **Passes: 10:0** (Mr. Andrews, Ms. Murphy)

5. Discuss and establish an actual celebration date of August 23, 2025

The actual Incorporation date for Mansfield is August 23, 1775. Chair MacDonald entertained the motion to officially establish August 23, 2025 as Incorporation Day. **Passes: 10:0** (Ms. Cusack, Mr. O'Brien). A State House proclamation for the day was suggested. Ms. Griffin reported that the request would go through the town.

6. Discuss potential event programming from previous meeting

Mr. Andrews discussed the Country's Bicentennial Celebration and gave the committee members a thumb drive copy of the 1976 parade in Mansfield.

250th Celebration Committee
Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2023

First event discussed was the 250th Logo Design and Slogan Contest. A celebration seal was also suggested.

Mr. McNatt passed around examples of celebration medallions, including the town's 150th Celebration, Bicentennial, and the Mayflower 's 400th. The 150th program booklet was also passed around and a booklet for the 250th was suggested. Discussion regarding the timeframe the medallions would be sold focused on a year or so before the August 2025 celebration. The Committee showed high interest in the 250th Commemorative/fundraising event with inquiry as to where the Mansfield Commemoratives were minted.

There was a committee consensus the 250th Logo and Slogan should highlight the many positive aspects of the Mansfield community, such as: education, sports, business, arts, nature, etc. The Chair asked for a Volunteer to head the subcommittee. Ms. Griffin volunteered to spearhead the logo contest. She will draw up the specifics by August 23, 2023 with the Committee Chair approval for the contest outreach to the public.

The slogan contest will occur separately. Ms. McCabe suggested a children's poster contest.

The Committee supported a celebration parade. The challenges of obtaining marching bands during the school year was discussed along with possible parade dates. There was discussion reaching out to the Veteran's group regarding a probable parade date close to their Memorial Day parade. Mr. Andrews motioned to move that 5/17/25 is the 250th parade date. Ms. McCabe seconded. There was further discussion. Mr. McNatt called the vote. **Passes: 10:0**

7. Categorize events into subcommittees or groups

There was clarification for several community group acronyms: Mansfield Cultural Council (MCC) and Mansfield Shelter Friends (MSF).

Mr. O'Brian suggested that future events highlight activities within the town. He and Committee members identified the following: Arts, outdoors, stories from past and present, sports, restaurants/pubs and creating something tangible that would have a lasting benefit to the town, such as plaques and self-guided walking tours.

The Committee briefly discussed events that could be a fundraiser and/or celebration. There was general agreement that fundraisers would occur before the Celebration parade.

This year's Family Fun Night was suggested as an opportunity for people to sign up as volunteers for the 250th. It was also suggested using a QR code as another way for volunteers to sign up.

250th Celebration Committee
Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2023

Other events briefly discussed included Story Corps and a restaurant/pub crawl.

There was Committee consensus regarding a celebration Music series. The Committee generally agreed to partner with the Summer Series on the South Common during the 2025 season as part of their music rotation. Ms. Burch offered to head the subcommittee and Mr. O'Brien and Ms. Feely agreed to join.

There was general agreement to hold a Ball /Gala fundraiser on New Year's Eve 2024 at enVision Hotel (formerly Holiday Inn in Mansfield).

Trolley tours of Mansfield historical sites were discussed, identifying the need for 4-6 trolleys. There was discussion regarding a charge for the tours. There was consensus that patrons would sign up for the tours. Ms. Burch shared that Debbie Britt from the National Black Doll of History and Culture is seeking sponsors. Chair MacDonald offered to take the lead on this event.

Mr. Andrews identified that the Conservation Tours would go through the Natural Resources Trust (NRT).

Mr. Andrews offered to gather information regarding a possible Air show fly-in event.

Ms. Cusack offered to talk to the Airport Commission relating to a Hot Air Balloon event and Ms. Feely offered to reach out to someone who was involved with hot air ballooning.

There was discussion establishing a new road race. An event involving MHS Alumni was also suggested.

The Committee ended discussion, due to time, after addressing the first 12 events on the Brainstorming List.

8. Discussion and establish a broad timeline and future meeting schedule

The next Committee meeting date is Wednesday June 21st at 6:30 and the same time on Wednesday, July 19th. Mr. Andrews motioned to vote, and Mr. O'Brien seconded. **Passes: 10:0**

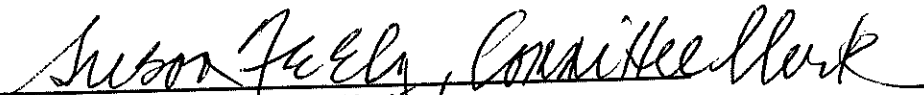
Ms. Cusack notified the Committee that she'll be out of town on the next meeting date.

9. Other items not known 48 hours in advance.

None

10. Adjourn

Motion: Move to adjourn at 8:40 PM **Passes 10:0** (Ms. Griffin, Ms. Cusack).


Susan Feely, Committee Clerk