Meeting Minutes for the USA 250 Celebration Steering Committee

For Tuesday, 7/28/2026 7:00 PM Special Meeting

In Meeting Room 1

Attendees:

Forrest Anderson

Todd Gelston

Allison Guinness

Debbie Langdon

Karl Stofko

Susan Waide

Tim Carr

Martha Nijssen

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Review of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes – 7/08/26 Special Meeting
4. Overall impressions of the July 11 Event
5. Critique of the July 11 Event – What worked and what did not work.
6. Review and vote on Receipts and Invoices –
7. What else can we do for America 250 Events? – Potential Summer and Fall Events?
8. Other items as necessary
9. Public Comment
10. Adjournment

Participants unable to attend in person may also view the meeting on YouTube Live at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLZq-CmatoKY6FW829c6mBA?view_as=subscriber

You may access the YouTube Live link from the Town's website: www.easthaddam.org

Discussion

The Chairman, Todd Gelston declared that a quorum is present.

Todd Gelston called the Special Meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

The members in attendance reviewed the Agenda of this Special Meeting and found no issues.

The first item was to approve the Meeting Minutes for the 7/08/26 Special Meeting. Debbie Langdon moved that the 7/08/26 Meeting Minutes be approved. Forrest Anderson seconded the motion. The attendees voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes.

Next, the attendees expressed their overall impressions of the July 11 Event as follows:

- We were lucky with the weather.
- It was a wonderful Event for the Town of East Haddam.
- Many positive comments about the Signing Re-enactment and the Activities after the Re-enactment
    - Re-creation of the Assembly Hall
    - The Kids activities in the Grange Hall
    - The Nathan Hale Presentation in the Grange Hall
- Both the Moodus Drum & Fife Corps and the First Company Governor's Foot Guard Band were excellent. Putting audience seating on both the east and west side of Town Street was a good idea.
- Overall, the Event went very well.
- The Shuttle Bus Service was excellent. We heard many positive comments.
- The Food Trucks varied from adequate to excellent in service. They all got a good income from the Event.

Next, the attendees addressed the reimbursements presented to-date for expenses. Susan Waide presented her expenses for the following:

1.	The Scroll	$109.20
2.	Sharpies for the Scroll signing	$ 8.78
3.	Laminate for the Signs	$ 18.99
4.	Cardstock for the Signs & Bookmarks (2 Packages)	$ 42.98
5.	EH 250 Programs (Essex Printing)	$ 325.00
Total		$ 504.95

Debbie Langdon presented her list of expenses which totaled $2,681.36. However, Debbie stated that the Town is welcome to retain the panels, curtains, chandelier, and any other selected items for use in the Assembly Room and Grange Kids Activities. A $1,000 budget was earmarked for these areas (therefore not to exceed $1,000.00). Debbie is happy to keep any remaining items and load back for repeat exhibits for the year. The $1,000.00 above represents the maximum Debbie would submit for reimbursement.

From the above discussion, a motion was made by Alison Guinness to approve the reimbursement of $504. 95 to Susan Waide and $1,000.00 to Debbie Langdon. Karl Stofko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next, the attendees discussed what else can be done for America 250 Events before the end of the year as follows:

1. Participating in the SAR/DAR scheduled Nathan Hale Schoolhouse Ceremony
2. Circulating the Declaration of Independence Re-enactment Scroll for more signatures by visiting various institutions in East Haddam.

3. Continuing with the Campaign to increase the donations to the Bicentennial Scholarship Fund.
4. Evaluate other ideas as they come up.

The meeting ended with this discussion.

Alison Guinness moved that the meeting be adjourned and Susan Waide seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Meeting Minutes were written by Todd Gelston.