

Nation's 250th Committee Minutes

December 14, 2023

Present: Janet Allen, Patricia Jenkins, Clara Kustra, Marian Kelsey, Scott Bugbee, Sandi Jenkins

Absent: Laura Gund, Brian Seeley

- I. Call to Order 4:35 p.m.
- II. Preliminary Actions
 - A. Approval of Agenda
 - B. Approval of Minutes from 10/7/2023

Reviewed and accepted edits to the draft minutes.
Scott Bugbee moved to accept approved minutes, as amended. Clara Kustra seconded. Approved 6-0.
- III. Committee Officer Nominations:
 - A. Clara Kustra motioned to appoint Patricia Jenkins & Janet Allen, Co-Chairpersons. Scott Bugbee seconded the motion. Approved 6-0.
 - B. Clara Kustra motioned to appoint Scott Bugbee, Treasurer. Marian Kelsey seconded the motion. Approved 6-0.
 - C. Scott Bugbee motioned to appoint Sandi Jenkins, Secretary. Clara Kustra seconded the motion. Approved 6-0.
- IV. Discussion
 - A. Brian Seeley

It was reported that Brian Seeley resigned his position as member of the Nation's 250th Committee. Scott Bugbee will confirm Mr. Seeley's formal resignation at the Selectboard meeting to be held on December 18, 2023.
 - B. Budget
 - i. Scott Bugbee motioned that the Committee request an initial \$5,000 budget from the Town Budget Committee for budget year 7/1/2024 through 6/30/2025. Clara Kustra seconded. Approved 6-0.
 - ii. Jan Allen made a motion to have Scott Bugbee ask the Town of Lee Heritage Commission if they would accept the Nation's 250th Committee as a sub-committee which would ensure that budgeted monies won't go into the unassigned fund balance at the end of the fiscal year. Scott Bugbee volunteered to monitor budgeted monies for the Committee. Sandi Jenkins seconded the motion. Approved 6-0.

Scott Bugbee motioned to requested \$1,000 from the Select Board for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 for incenitals/supplies. Clara Kustra seconded the motion. Approved 6-0.

Jan Allen to follow up with Janet Wall regarding grants from the State.

B. Banner/Logo Design

It was reported that Laura Gund hasn't yet spoken with Amy Daskal regarding her assistance with both design and logo; however, she did speak with Laurie Weisz about putting the logo (once finalized), with "Lee The People" onto hats. Laurie Weisz confirmed that she would assist.

Committee agreed that we should have a few banners on the Town flag poles.

Jan Allen stated that she would like two (2) poles with weighted stands for the large banner that is being planned. This will make the banner easier to transport and set up at various locations throughout the celebration period.

Scott Bugbee reported that Andy Robertson, Town Administrator has approved use of the Town's weighted bases and poles for display purposes over the next three (3) years.

Additional memorabilia for printing with logo include:

Totes, Hats, T-Shirts, Aprons (using National colors – red, white, blue)

Scott Bugbee has a supply of napkins from 2016 Semiquincentennial (1766-2016) that can be used at future events.

C. Commemorative Coins

Discussion to keep same coin design used from 1966 and 1976 centennial celebrations. Potentially change lettering (font). Gold & Silver coins were best sellers from past centennials. Perhaps sell coin sets as well.

Janet Allen asked Janet Wall if the State is planning to mint coins. Janet Wall will check and follow up.

D. Website Design

Discussion regarding 250th Nation's Celebration website to communicate timelines, advertise events and memorabilia, and post pictures.

Jan Allen reported that she spoke with her grandson, Paidan Allen, who has website/IT experience and is willing to advise the Committee.

Paiden Allen suggested that \$700-\$800 would be a reasonable budget for the design, set up and training for a website.

Questions posed by Committee members:

- Find out what server would host the site and cost associated.
- Would we have a page on the Town website?
- Would the Town site point to the Committee website?
- Do we need to archive anything on the Town site?
- Need to review options with the Selectboard.
- This needs to be organized and set up as soon as possible.

Committee discussed hiring UNH or high school students to assist with project.

Need to ensure that we are targeting generational audiences via all social media platforms (i.e. Facebook, Instagram, etc.)

Jan Allen to follow up with Paidan Allen in the Spring of 2024.

E. 250th Commemorative License Plate

Limited time issuance (January 2026 – December 2026)

Scott Bugbee believes this would be a fundraiser for the Police Association.

Clara Kustra spoke with Tom Dronsfield, Chief of Police, who said he would support issuance of license plates. Chief Dronsfield will check with the State to find out if there is anything being planned. He will report back.

F. Town Events

- Jan Allen spoke with Misty Lowe, Principal of Mast Way School and another staff member who coordinates programs. The school is planning a three (3) year programming event, including a focus on Indigenous Peoples in 2024 and Colonial Period in 2025. They would welcome the opportunity to tie their programming to what the 250th Committee is planning for the Town.

It has been suggested that we hold reprise of The Mast Tree program (similar to the event held in 2016) which would include tree cutting, costumes, “tar & feathering”, etc. as a school event in 2025 as part of the Colonial Period events program.

Jan Allen to ask the Mast Way School if they would do a reading of “Down the Mast Road” for the kids.

Jan Allen suggested speaking with Ann Jennison regarding programming for Indigenous Peoples programming in 2024. Perhaps basketweaving workshops and/or a Pow Wow.

ii. 2026 Parade

Clara Kustra spoke with a representative from the Town of Exeter who reported that they had just started to create their town 250th Committee.

The Town of Exeter plans to hold a year-long (2026) program of events, with their ultimate celebration being held on 7/11/2026 (date nearest to the date the Constitution came to the Town of Exeter), which will include an encampment on Swasey Park.

The Committee agreed to hold the parade on **Saturday June 27, 2026** as this date is close to school closing, before families get involved in summer plans/events, is not likely to compete with local Town celebrations, and it is close to Independence Day.

Other items to consider:

- a. Bring the Fair Committee & Agricultural Committee into planning discussions as liaisons.

Laura Gund to speak with Erick Sawtelle.

- b. Surrounding Community Events

Clara Kustra to contact Dover, Durham, Portsmouth, Madbury, Newmarket, Hampton, Barrington, Epping, Exeter (already contacted).

- c. Marching Bands

Jan Allen had an initial conversation with Mark LaForce, ORHS Band Director, to see if the High School band can participate in the parade. Mr. LaForce said he will also contact the Oyster River Middle School Band Director. Jan Allen will also speak with music teachers from Dover/Portsmouth High Schools schools to see if they are interested. Perhaps an alumni band is an option.

d. Floats

Neighborhood floats?

See if local businesses would sponsor floats

Jan Allen handed out the first draft of a letter from the Committee asking local businesses to support sponsorship. The Committee will review and provide input.

- e. Identify a Mast Tree to Fell – Check with Don Quigley
Bummer Wheels – Check with Erick Sawtelle
Group of Oxen – Contact 4-H
Horses – Check with Caren Rossi

- f. “Announcer” at reviewing stand – Mike Ward? Don Quigley?

- g. Permit to Close Route 155
Where will we stage in 2026?
1976 James Farm; 2016 Transfer Station
Is there a charge for police security

Clara Kustra to discuss with Tom Dronsfield, Chief of Police

- h. Little River Park (end of parade route)
Food Trucks
Music in the Park
Fireworks – ask Town and/or Local Businesses to assist with funding

V. Closing Actions

A. Future Meeting Dates:

Thursday, 1/11/2024 @ 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, 2/22/2024 @ 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, 3/14/2024 @ 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, 4/11/2024 @ 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, 5/9/2024 @ 4:30 p.m.

B. Adjournment

Clara Kustra motioned to adjourn. Jan Allen seconded the motion.
Meeting adjourned 5:54 p.m.