

**250<sup>th</sup> Committee**  
**Thursday, January 15, 2026**

Attendees: Mark Comeiro, Mairathe Emerson, Marilyn Fitzgerald, Christopher Klein, Susan McCready, Max Murphy, Bill Pennington, Gail Ralston, Jennifer Robbins, Martha Tubinis.  
Staff: Austin Simko, Deputy Town Manager and Ann Ormond, Director of Business, Arts & Cultural Development

Absent: Rodney Johnson

1. Call to order - Austin welcomed the committee at 2:00 PM
2. Committee member and staff introductions
3. Austin provided an overview of the Open Meeting Law and what is required of the committee to maintain compliance.
4. The committee reviewed its charge, which includes the following components: planning, public education, partnering with other stakeholders, pursuing funding as needed. The committee asked about “seed funding” at the 2026 Annual Town Meeting.
5. The committee then identified some planning themes:
  - a. Feel good about being in Andover, educating the town on how great the town is, a celebration of the town, educate multiple generations, support of veterans, veterans concerts, augment things that already exist to bring in more to that event, how do we involve schools, ACE should have the 250<sup>th</sup> theme, focus on the present climate of the country, what are other constituents group planning (ACHC, APS, etc.).
  - b. Make history relevant, draw connection to national events and Andover’s role in those events, there is comfort in community,
  - c. Schools might have a float in a parade.
  - d. Memorial Day parade done every year, recognize 250<sup>th</sup>, has budget for the parade. Raised concerns about having a July 4<sup>th</sup> parade. Memorial Day could be the kickoff.
  - e. Do we want one large event or multiple events?
  - f. Large community event such as a BBQ.
  - g. Refurbishing the American Revolution park across from South Church.

- h. Invest in swag, lawn signs, branding phrase, “Huzza” as a phrase .
  - i. Fund commemorative plaque.
  - j. Don’t forget about Phillips Academy, and the YMCA.
- 6. Identify meeting time(s) – The preferred meeting date and time is every two weeks starting on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM in the Select Board Conference Room. Email will be the primary form of communication. It was requested that a Zoom option be made available for meetings.
- 7. Next Steps:
  - a. Susan McCready volunteered to find out what the schools are doing for 250<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. At the next meeting, staff will provide a list of annual Town events and programs from the Andover 375<sup>th</sup> celebration. This will provide a “menu” of options for the committee to review and choose from.
  - c. Election of committee officers will take place on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Positions open are Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk.
- 8. Meeting adjourned at 3:22 PM