



VT250th Committee

November 13, 2025, Steele Community Room, 6pm

Present: Cheryl Casey; chair, Laura Parette; secretary, Ryan Geary, Carolyn Fox, Evan Hoffman,
Judy Byron, Roger Clapp

Via Zoom: Emily Gilde, Bryan Farnsworth, Joe Camaratta

Agenda Item	Discussion	Actions
Call to order Introductions		Create a contact list Need a committee name
Election of Chair and Secretary	Chair: Cheryl nominated, motion, accepted. Secretary: Laura nominated, motion, accepted.	
Committee Charge and Goals	2026 250th anniversary of signing of the Declaration of Independence. 2027 250th commemoration of VT as a Republic. Waterbury signed a resolution with the state to be included in 250th planning. The committee is charged with: To encourage, support, develop, and promote activities that honor, elevate, and celebrate the complex history of 250 years in the United States and the Republic of Vermont. Goals: -Activities to bring the community together. -Synergies of what happened 250 years ago to what is happening in governance today. Re-engage citizens to participate in local government and committees. -Activities should be town-wide, Waterbury as a whole. -Communication, not silos, to bring all together. -Use town meeting as a kick-off event, create enthusiasm to improve engagement. -Establish outcomes to measure success. -Engage the schools, specifically BPS. Does state education have a 250th curriculum?	Check out links. Visit the state's website and see what other towns are participating and what they may be planning. Look into this.
Budget	We presently don't have one. SB deadline for financial requests is mid-Dec, last call mid-Jan.	Top agenda item for Dec. 11. CC to look into paperwork to request \$\$\$ from the SB.
Timeline	This committee's work is till end of 2027.	

Education and Outreach Strategies	Key Messages: Tailor messages to engage businesses. What are the tactics for communicating our work to the public. Key Audiences: Faith organizations, WAARC, businesses, civic groups, education, etc. Field Guide: Check out this link, it has good ideas. Program Guide: Check out this link, it has good ideas. Post meeting: Emily was poking around on VT Public, tons of 250th info and enthusiasm! https://www.pbs.org/explore/pbs-america-at-250/. The website includes a series of American history documentaries to download (i.e. the revolution, founding fathers, etc.). There is also a new Ken Burns series called The American Revolution. I wonder if we could get permission to screen this publicly in a weekly movie night format for the community with a discussion after and light refreshments.	LP and CF to draft communication tactics The new K. Burns series (6) airs on PBS starting November 16.
Next Steps	Submit ideas post meeting to Laura and she'll include in the minutes. Shared Google doc. For the next meeting think about what you can bring/offer to the committee. Reach out to MakerSphere and River of Light. Ariel Mondlack will be representing Rotary.	Cheryl to create and share
Next meeting	December 11, 2025 at 6pm in the Steele Community Room and via Zoom.	
Meeting Adjourned	7:12pm. Notes respectfully submitted by Laura Parette	