

Bristol 250th Commission [APPROVED] Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 21 October 2025
Burnside Building
400 Hope Street, Bristol, RI 02809

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance recited

Roll Call

- Present: Matt Hayes, Christine Hughes, Warren Rensehausen, Andrea Rounds, Alayne White, Catherine Zipf, and Councilwoman Mary Parella joined at 7:00pm
- Regrets: Craig Evans, Carol Gafford, Sarah Griffin, Bill Leary, Lisa Newcity, Amanda Marsilli, Michael Riley, and Paul Vollaro

Approval of Minutes

- Matt made a motion to approve the 16 September 2025 minutes; seconded by Catherine; all were in favor, motion carried

Election of Vice Chair

- Andrea nominated Sarah Griffin to serve as Vice Chair of the Bristol250 Commission; Catherine seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Letter of Support for Mt. Hope Farm event

- Brenda Turchetta is applying to the RI State 250Commission for a grant for “Tavern Lights” a Revolutionary-themed dinner at MHF, which Bristol250 would co-partner with. They need B250 Commission’s approval of the application.
- This request would not impact the B250’s own request for funding.
- Warren made a motion for Bristol250 Commission to write a letter of support for Mt. Hope Farm’s application for funding. Matt seconded; all in favor; motion carried

Calendar and Projects Update

- The group reviewed the updated the Bristol250 Calendar and Projects spreadsheet. The revised document will be loaded to the B250 Google Drive.
- Highlights
 - Adam is confirmed for the special rum event at venue meeting
 - Ways to engage restaurant community:
 - Give each restaurant a recipe and prepare it however you want;
 - Johnny Cake Cook-off challenge
 - B250 bagel
 - B250 ice cream
 - Get off the Couch: each venue would provide a map to walk on their property
 - Possible event would be a Navigation Sail, in memory of “Nick Nadalin.” Matt Hayes will look into using the Navigator’s Race as the B250 historic race Regatta.
 - RI Phil is confirmed for Labor Day

- Craig's medical issues will delay the launch of Bristol Brews, Bristol Works and Bristol Sports, probably to 2026.
- We need to clarify branding for Graig's Bristol Works high school initiative and the Manufacturers open house on May 15th. Matt and Andrea agreed to change the title for the manufacturers open house and encourage Craig to have exclusive rights to the Bristol Works brand
- Mary Dondero confirmed the call to artists for the National Exhibit in January "When in the Course of Human Events....." at the Bristol Art Museum
- Discussion ensued about the availability of free events during the B250 commemoration.
- The Johnny Cake Festival in September 2026 will be a Johnny Cake week that includes: Barrington, Warren and Bristol restaurants.
- Alayne is meeting with the July 4th Committee to discuss collaboration with B250
- Charlotte-Carrington Farmer offered to give a lecture on the Equine farmer at Mt. Hope Farm.
- Warren is working on a Revolutionary-themed movie in the Park. Perhaps the PTO would sponsor it.
- Catherine Zipf suggested that one of the Bosworth Lectures be Lindsay Chervinsky, author of "Making the Presidency: John Adams and the Precedents That Forged the Republic."

Other discussion topics:

- The commission agreed to secure sponsorships for two-sided (only, not one-sided) banners @ \$250/banner. Need to create a form for banner sponsors
- Alayne submitted a grant request to the State for \$5,000, which is the maximum amount.
- Alayne proposed tweaking the B250 branding using Bristol Works as an example. Events might be organized and branded around themes:
 - Bristol Work
 - Bristol Learns
 - Bristol Cooks
 - Etc...

New Business

- Alayne submitted the proposed meeting Dates for 2026
- The Commission discussed a draft agenda for the next meeting

Matt made a motion to adjourn, Catherine seconded; all were in favor, and the motion carried; meeting adjourned 7:30pm