

Bristol 250th Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 16 September 2025
Burnside Building
400 Hope Street, Bristol, RI 02809

Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM

Pledge of Allegiance recited

Roll Call

- Present: Alayne White, Bill Leary, Andrea Rounds, Craig Evans, Lisa Newcity, Sarah Griffin, Carol Gafford, Paul Vollaro, Catherine Zipf, Amanda Marsilli
- Regrets: Michael Riley, Warren Rensehausen, Matt Hayes

Approval of Minutes

- 19 August 2025 meeting minutes – motion to approve Andrea, second Paul, all in favor, motion carried

Discussion of Topics

- Andrea updated the “Calendar and Projects” list as each member provided updates; list to be loaded to Google Drive
- Highlights
 - “Support of 250” column is for those events that have agreed to use the logo and posted on state website
 - Alayne will make typewriters available for Story Bench or 250 Words of Joy events
 - Alayne asked each member to submit their 250 Words of Joy to the Phoenix if they haven’t already done so
 - Craig – need a pool of volunteer for all of 250 events; will check with the high school; they could be “250 Ambassadors”; provide recognition (certificate / participation sticker)
 - Alayne featuring Bristol 250 Get off the Couch as a premier event; Catherine mentioned maybe 250 mi radius from Bristol (what’s in it?); Get off the Couch working group to include Alayne, Sarah, Craig, Amanda
 - Andrea working with Mt. Hope Farm regarding a “conversation” of Simeon Simons, George Washington’s “bodyguard” during the Revolution. Simons was a Pokanoket born in CT but has living relatives in the area, notably Don “Strong Turtle” Brown.
 - Alayne mentioned that we have \$5000 from the town but we need to set up a checking account
 - Moving on banners, need 60 or 70; will hang up after December; looking for business sponsors (1 side \$125, both sides \$250); 2 week turn-around-time, cost about \$36 / banner; can each member lock in 5 sponsors?
 - Bill mentioned that he contacted Steve Brosnihan about creating a B250 cartoon drawing that we could use to make t-shirts; each member is asked to think of topics that can be turned into a humorous cartoon such as Washington Crossing the Delaware, Signing of the Declaration of Independence, Spirit of ’76, Washington “Schlepped” Here, and bring to the October meeting

New Business

- Motion to move Sarah from Alternate to Committee Member was made by Catherine and seconded by Andrea; all in favor (unanimous), motion carried; Alayne to notify the Town Council
- The Vice-Chair position is currently open. Please notify Alayne in writing prior to the October meeting if you are interested in this position. Confirmation vote will be held at the October meeting.
- World Cup Events
 - Liz Tanner of World Cup RI presented opportunities for the B250 Commission to participate in World Cup events; Boston (Foxboro) to host 7 games from June 13th to July 9th (quarterfinal game) next summer; 2.2 million fans are anticipated to be in the area; non-profits around RI can submit grant requests for events; Providence is planning a World Cup event; other soccer events can be planned; Bristol's Portuguese population and affinity for soccer should be a good fit (culturally appropriate); we need to submit an application before Oct 1 to be considered for a grant

Motion to adjourn Paul, second Alayne, all in favor, motion carried; meeting adjourned 7:10 PM