

America 250

Planning Meeting #4 March 21st, 2024 6:30-7:30pm Jonathan Trumbull Library Community Room

Agenda

Brief Introductions for Attendees-

- Donna Baron Lebanon Historical Society Museum Director (LHS) facilitator
- Julie Garceau Lebanon Historical Society Community Outreach Coordinator
- (Iza)Bella Garceau Youth Committee Member
- Sarah Schultz Committee Member
- Sarah Otis Lebanon Resident
- Harold Nelson American Legion Post 180
- Ed Tytor Ye CT Gun Guild and American Legion Post 180 (AL180)
- John Cooke Lebanon First Congregational Church
- Blyse Soby Daughters of the American Revolution
- Dan Moore Lebanon Historical Society and Cemetery Commission
- Gregory McKenna Lebanon Resident
- Keith Laporte Lebanon Historical Society
- Kevin Cwikla current first selectman town of Lebanon
- Rob Gasparini Lebanon Town Militia

Donna Baron Facilitator- brief description to new attendees. Explained that America 250 is a nationwide collaborative effort to celebrate revolutions that shaped America and by planning events. There may be grant funding available for well-developed plans to participate in the 2025-2026 year. Our goal is to create a subcommittee to drive the planning for Lebanon's America 250 participation.

Julie Garceau to take meeting minutes.

Committee Members Position Vote

The attendees agreed that we would conduct these meeting by way of Robert Rules.

Harold Nelson had expressed interest in being co-chair with the request of a co-chair because as a 1976 participant feels his execution of the position will need support to create an inclusive committee focused on a 2026 viewpoint and his level of comfort is with the historical information but will need support facilitating the next generation.

Donna expressed our challenge is to include the current revolutions with intellectual and financial goals in mind and that the newer ideals are required for a different perspective.

Donna expressed she will continue to be on the committee to represent Lebanon Historical Society but would like to allow the co-chairs to facilitate meetings moving forward. She is willing to help with grant writing once a plan is in place but that the co-chairs are to form a balance and to bounce ideas and responsibilities for the management of the group. That the co-chairs should have congruent goals to create a contentment within the group.

Sarah Schultz expressed her views the she is passionate about history within a modern culture.

John Cooke shared his recent experience at the CT College America 250 Conference and saw that 2025 onward events should be a tourist attraction to appeal to the most visitors.

Harold made the point that money will not be the driving factor for this committees plans, we should represent all sides.

The co-chair position will be a role of management to track ideas and create productive agendas.

John mentioned that military is not yet represented at the meetings and suggested that they be run by Roberts Rules in order to account for funding.

Greg volunteered to be Assistant Co-Chair but did not feel comfortable as a new resident in the co-chair role, he simply wants to focus on the future and to include everybody.

Ed pointed out that viewpoints of history have evolved over time and there are hidden parts of history that continues to evolve.

Donna mentioned that the observances can occur over the next 8 years.

Sarah Schultz was identified as a co-chair nominee due to her experience in management organization and facilitation and has worked as an assistant manager.

Bella posed the question of shouldn't we select a committee before we narrow down the details?

Harold states that community participation will be of support to ask to create a logo and to work from both ends of the plan, the end result desired and the beginning planning stages and the hope is to meet in the middle with a unified plan.

Ed suggests we interview seniors to gain personal stories about the revolutions they lived through.

Blyse mentioned she also attended the CT 250 Conference at CCSU and that we need to be looking forward because out of the 700-1K High school students discussed their ideas of What is Freedom? She was inspired to hear their stories and that youth experience the world in a different way and live in a time of different societal changes, and offer a valuable perspective. We agreed as a group that the organizational structure of these America 250 planning meetings is to break into subgroups to discuss ideas, plans, and to report to whole group.

Donna encouraged idea sharing for the best fit of each group. That an idea that may not work for one group may work for another.

Keith had a question of Grant money?

Donna expressed she was willing to apply for grant funding.

John mentioned that CT is already working on the big picture and suggested we each read the constitution and understand freedom and the media.

Donna said she would update the planning committee on any CT info and we can take advantage of what's already happening.

A discuss of the Treasurer duties will be to budget for grant money is predetermined.

Kevin suggested we figure out the activities we wish to offer first then move backwards.

Donna states there are 100's K in grants available that all CT towns will be applying for.

John mentioned that number could be in the millions to attract tourism.

Donna said that grant funding is dependent upon interest and it is our challenge to create relevant well-crafted and well written plans that must relate to revolution, that we must tell a story and that as the planning commission it is our task to establish the stories we want to tell.

That these stories will determine how we engage with people as planners, facilitators and visitors in mind.

Lebanon has many strengths to include the War office, Stables, WW1 Ambulance, etc. We have a huge history of the American Revolution, Agricultural Revolution, Immigration Revolution, Personal and Modern Revolutions at our feet.

Sarah expressed the importance for us to articulate to the public What Revolution means ie. Modern Revolutions of phones, electricity and what these changes bring.

Bella chimed in that as time passes mindset shifts and skews the perspective of the generations.

Keith was interested in collecting the oral histories of immigrations.

Greg points out this town is rich in history of various sorts.

Blyse posed the question of why should one come to Lebanon? The need to keep an open mind is important.

Donna mentioned that Lebanon paid soldiers of indigenous and African cultures to fill quotas with stories of inclusion and we can explore further and share in engaging and interesting ways.

The next meeting will discuss a progressive plan on where to go from here? How to engage community groups for participation.

Next meeting will be Wednesday April 24th 2024 at 6:00 pm at the Lebanon Historical Society Meeting room to encourage more participation from local residents and community groups.

We determined the community groups we wish to solicit for participation are as follows:

Community Groups-

- Local Churches First Congregational Church, Baptist, Catholic, Lutheran, Goshen, Goshen Bible Church
- Prides Corner
- Lebanon Farmers and Farmers Market
- Cemetery Commission- Mary Trumbull Willams
- Jewish Immigration/Spanish
- Tourism
- Indigenous Peoples
- Descendants of Lebanon
- Public Schools- LES, LMS, Lyman and Homeschool Community
- Lebanon Lions and Leos
- American Legion Post 180
- Scouts- cub scouts, Troop 58 & Girl Scouts
- DAR – Daughters of American Revolution
- SAR- Sons of American Revolution
- JTL- Jonathan Trumbull Library
- SH- Sheldon's Light Horse
- Lebanon Militia

America 250 Committee Positions

Nominated voted and accepted

Co-chairs **Harold Nelson and Sarah Schultz**

Secretary **Julie Garceau**

Youth Liaison **Bella Garceau**

Treasurer **Open**

Julie to create meeting minutes and share by email with all Am250 meeting attendees, community leaders and interested parties.

A google doc will be shared to allow all ideas to be reviewed so if you are unable to attend a meeting share your ideas in this google doc and we will discuss at the next meeting.

A quick count of interest in participation of focus groups by topic by show of hands.

American Revolution=4

Agricultural Revolution=3

Immigrational Revolution=3

Personal Revolutions=3

Modern Revolutions=5

Kevin suggested that we should stick to these 5 Revolutions.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.