

Ridgefield Commemorates America at 250 (RCA250)

Approved Minutes

Meeting - June 26, 2024, 8 am
Town Hall Annex

In attendance: Co-chairs Geoffrey Morris, Pamme Jones; members Stephanie Heering, Renee Brown-Cheng
Guests: James Carone, Sara Champion, Louzette Dovaras, Elizabeth Ellis, Dawn Fawcett, Deborah Rundlett, Daniela Sikora, Hilde Grob

Meeting Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 am by co-chair Geoffrey Morris

Agenda items

- *Business items*

Morris and Jones reminded those who have been appointed by the Board of Selectpersons but not sworn in to go to the town clerk's office and get sworn in.

- *Selection and election of Secretary and Treasurer*

With not enough sworn-in members in attendance, we put off the selection and election of officer positions for secretary and treasurer until the July 24 meeting

- *Discuss branding look and designer proposals*

Chair Morris said he put out a request on social media and via email to area designers to submit a proposal to produce a logo and to design marketing material for the committee through the duration of the commemoration period. We received two proposals. A subcommittee led by Daniela Sikora is being formed to review the submissions and collect more submissions for further review at the July 24 meeting

- *Website look and manager*

Committee member Renee Brown-Cheng offered to take the lead on the website creation, build, and ongoing maintenance. Morris suggested we secure a domain name and proposed ridgefield250.org and ridgefield1776.org. Some people thought ridgefield250 was good but others thought it was confusing to people who recall the town's 300th-anniversary celebration in 2008, not knowing that this is about America's

declaration of independence in 1776. Some thought ridgefield1776.org seemed dated and not clear. Further discussion at the July 24 meeting.

- *Coordinating working relationship Arts Council – August evening social/brainstorming event*

Morris and Daniela Sikora both stressed the importance of maintaining a strong line of communication with the arts and cultural community, many of whom have begun planning activities for this commemoration. Morris suggested a social event in August at Keeler Tavern. Dates to come and to be decided via email. The idea of the event is to open lines of communication and to share what decisions the committee has made to date and to share any logo concepts that are in the works.

- *Brainstorm ideas: events, activities, programs, fund-raisers...*

Each member of the committee shared ideas on what he or she would like to take place during the commemorative period of July 4, 2025, to July 6, 2026 (tentative); Ideas included but do not total: a parade, a townwide bbq/community event, Patriot run, Liberty Ball, reading of the Declaration of Independence, Choral event, commissioned song, tree-planting competition, Museum in the Street installation, and more

- *Next meetings*

The meeting schedule for the rest of the year has been established. All meetings are at 8 am in the Town Hall Annex. The dates are: July 24, August 21, September 18, October 16, November 20, and December 18.

Morris motioned, Jones 2nd to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 am. All in favor, 4-0.