

Ridgefield Commemorates America at 250 (RCA250)
Approved Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2025, 8 am – Town Hall Annex

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 am

In attendance: Co-chair Geoffrey Morris, Co-chair Pamme Jones; members Renee Brown-Cheng, James Carone (Treasurer), Sara Champion, Elizabeth Ellis (Secretary), Dawn Fawcett, Stephanie Heering, Deborah Rundlett

Absent: Louzette Dovarar

Guest, by phone: Hildi Grob

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Geoffrey Morris motioned, and Jim Carone seconded, approval of the December 18, 2024, meeting minutes. Approved.

Website Presentation

Renee Brown-Cheng resolved the calendar date issue on the titlepage and uploaded a detailed timeline which Hildi Grob and her team provided, covering both US, and CT and Ridgefield, events at the time of the signing. The website is now ready for presentation at our January 22, 2025 social event, is ADA compliant, and professional in appearance. Website input will be done exclusively by Renee to maintain ADA compliance and uniformity of appearance. Groups hosting events will be asked to submit to and populate the events section ahead of the January 22 social event.

Sponsorships

Stephanie Heering is waiting for events to be solidified before proceeding.

*A new sub-committee comprised of Stephanie Heering and Pamme Jones will explore how to obtain and acknowledge sponsors and donors. They will create a pdf brochure to inform how businesses can get involved. All committee members are asked to email ideas to this new sub-committee. The website will have an additional tab to list sponsors and donors.

Social Media

Ashley Hutchings has created an Instagram page (@ridgefieldct250) with the goal of 1,000 followers by June 1, 2025. First Selectman Marconi's uploaded video introduces the Town's year of commemoration. Ashley will put together a collage of people reading the Declaration of Independence and plans merchandise giveaways to build awareness and followers.

January 22, 2025, Social Event

This reception will take place at Keeler Tavern Museum & History Center on Wednesday, January 22 from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. The goal is that participants will share specifics about their planned events to begin to populate the 250 Events Calendar. An invitation went out electronically, followed by an additional reminder. A follow-up meeting will be planned in May 2025.

Summerfest '25 Manned Table

July 26, 2025. Stephanie has secured a table to sell merchandise and present information. She will create a staffing coverage schedule

Fill Out Event Calendar

The Event Committee met January 14 to discuss the events calendar. Geoffrey has been getting pricing for Museum in the Streets' tops replacements and following up on creating new ones.

*A new Independence Hall sub-committee consisting of Jim Carone and Liz Ellis will work to create an Independence Hall steeple on Town Hall, and Geoffrey will ask Rudy Marconi about getting the American flag to hang there once again.

Financial Report

To date there have only been a couple of bills. Charitable donations will be received through Friends of Ridgefield Community Programs Inc, and the handling of receipts for tickets and merchandise is still to be organized.

New Business

*A new sub-committee consisting of Hildi Grob, Pamme Jones, and Deborah Rundlett will recruit RHS spring interns to assist with technology. UConn Storrs is hosting a State of CT 250 Conference on Friday, March 21, 2025. A Full Committee photo will be taken prior to the start of our Jan 22 social event.

• Next Meeting: February 19, 2025, 8 am, Town Hall Annex

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 am

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Ellis