Ridgefield Commemorates America at 250 (RCA250)
Meeting Minutes
Sept 18, 2024

September 18, 2024, 8 am - Town Hall Annex

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am

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

Louzette Dovaras (via phone)

Guests: Hilde Grob, Cherly Cook

Absent: Daniela Sikora

Cherly Cook introduced, and recommended that the Committee include among the commemoration activities, Contra Dancing: dancing to fiddle tunes, which was a big hit at Ridgefield's 2002 weekend-long celebration of the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Ridgefield

Agenda items

• **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**
Geoffrey Morris motioned, and Sara Champion seconded, approval of the August 21, 2024, meeting minutes

• **Review logo options**
Geoffrey Morris presented three options for the logo designed by Maida Designs. After discussion, with minor changes the logo will be voted on next month

• **Assemble budget**
More information is necessary and forthcoming

• **Pillar Event July 4, 2025**
The basis of the event will be Keeler Tavern Museum and History Center's existing programming; reenactors; a Pipe and Drum band; picnic fare; a scavenger hunt; and information distribution about the 12-month town-wide commemoration of America at 250

• **Pillar Event July 3 – 4, 2026**
A themed parade 10:00 a.m. Friday, July 3, 2026: "Evolving Liberty;" Liberty Ball July 3, 2024, evening [Louzette to spearhead]; Ballard Park daytime activities on Saturday July 4 followed by a reading of the Declaration of Independence; evening Fireworks at RHS July 4.

• **Brainstorming of Ideas**
Ideas include fiddlers, reenactors, period tradespeople, crafts people, militia, and period games;

multiple bands; temporary safety crosswalks; pets in parade; bikes in parade; reenactment of Ridgefield's contentious decision to join the independence movement; CCL Games similar to ESPN's X Games; barn dance; fill July 2025 to July 2026 with activities

• **Website look and manager**
We have the URL, and site will include the logo once finalized. The expected budget is $450 per year.

• **Sept 19, 2024, Evening Social and Networking Event**
"Wine, Whiteboards & Independence" will initiate a town-wide dialogue about activities and participation in Ridgefield's Commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence

• **Next meeting: October 16, 2024,** 8 am, Town Hall Annex

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Ellis