

Ridgefield Commemorates America at 250 (RCA250)
Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2025, 8 am – Town Hall Annex

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am

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

Guest: Hildi Grob

Absent: Geoffrey Morris, Louzette Dovaras

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Jim Carone motioned, and Sara Champion seconded, approval of the March 19, 2025 meeting minutes. All Approved.

Calendar Update

No updates at this time

Website Update

Continuation of prior meeting's discussion about the logistics of connecting the website to allow for access to the Town's Friends of Ridgefield Community Programs account to receive payments through the website or via a QR code for merchandise and ticket purchases, and for donations. It was agreed posted donation levels will be \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100, \$250, and 'Other.' Jim Carone will work with Alex Harris, a Town volunteer, for network assistance.

The site is live: <https://ridgefieldct250.org>

Renee will create a second user as backup

Fundraising

The Community Sponsors Committee (Ellis, Grob, Morris) continues its work seeking larger donors

Social Media Language

Hildi Grob requests the Committee continue to ensure that all communication in the Public Space be clear and non-provocative in regard to how we are commemorating this historic milestone.

Merchandise

Pamme, Louzette, and Stephanie are sourcing and pricing T-Shirts, hats, flags, mailbox wrappers, and car magnets. Discussion followed about sourcing merchandise that is made in America. Deborah Rundlett motioned, and Renee seconded, that we empower the Merchandise Committee to distribute to the Full Committee a compilation of their recommended merchandise choices and costs, allowing for an online vote in order to place merchandise orders to have in time for the July 4th kick-off.

Financial Report

Jim confirms that we have limited expenses to date, beyond our online communications contractor's pay of \$400 per month.

Ridgefield Thrift Shop's annual grants will be distributed at a reception on Monday, April 21. We will be receiving a grant, although the grant amount is unknown at this time.

New Business

- Deb invites all Committee members to attend the presentation of *"Poets and Profits"* on Sunday, April 27, 4:00 at the Meetinghouse
- Deb suggests an informal evening Committee get-together for a glass of wine and socializing
- Stephane contacted "068" Magazine to run an article on the Town's July 4 commemorations in its July/August issue
- Stephanie has obtained sponsors for the July 2025 and 2026 Fife and Drum Corps
- Stephanie has obtained trailers to use for the floats in the July 2026 parade
- Stephanie will contact Raffaele Gallo about hosting a Bar Tending fundraising event in June
- There was much discussion about marketing, generating a Press Release, and educating the public about who we as a committee are and what we are doing via print, digital, and social means
- It was recommended that the Marketing Committee (Brown-Cheng, Fawcett, Grob, Morris, Rundlett) complete the creation of a brochure for public distribution
- Dawn will create a spreadsheet for July 4, 2025 volunteer sign-ups

• Next Meeting: May 21, 2025, 8 am, Town Hall Annex

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Ellis