

Ridgefield Commemorates America at 250 (RCA250)
Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2025, 8 am – Town Hall Annex

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am

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

Call In: Louzette Dobaras, Guest Hildi Grob

Absent: Renee Brown-Cheng

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Geoffrey Morris motioned, and Jim Carone seconded, approval of the February 19, 2025 meeting minutes. All Approved.

Website Update

The website is great, constantly being improved
The site is live: <https://ridgefieldct250.org>
Renee will create a second user as backup

Jim Carone will take on the task of setting up Venmo and similar pay systems for tickets and merchandise purchases, including the use of a QR code.

Calendar Update

The first event currently scheduled is July 4, 2025 at Keeler Tavern History & Museum. The Committee is requested to help out with set-up and on the day of.
Geoffrey confirms that 2 police officers will be at the July 4 event.
Contra-Dancing has been added to the July 4, 2026 event at Ballard Park. Sara suggests we include 'costumes welcome.'

Fundraising

Geoffrey advised that Pepsi has signed on as a sponsor and will provide product for every significant event (value \$2,500), and a \$1,000 donation. Product requests must be made well in advance.

Geoffrey, Hildi, and Liz will continue approaching potential large donors. A Donation Support Level document draft was shared for a possible mailing to approximately 300 people. (This differs from the Sponsor donation form: sponsors receive promotional value.) Donor names will appear on the bottom of a Declaration of Independence template. Discussion followed with suggested edits and where to display this.

Stephanie Heering shared a handout at a recent Chamber event. Many businesses are interested in participating in America250 events. She has email addresses for Downtown Ridgefield and Chamber of Commerce members.

Stephanie will reach out to Chefs' Warehouse; she will coordinate business sponsor asks.

Social Media

Media manager Ashley Hutchings is working hard.

Merchandise

Pamme, Louzette, and Stephanie are pricing T-Shirts, hats, stickers. Merchandise will be ready for July 4, 2025. Discussion followed about distribution, and adding merchandise as thank yous at different donation levels.

Pamme will work to coordinate banners on the lampposts along Rt 35, and will request a table at the May 18 Townwide Party.

Financial Report

Jim has received no new report from Town Hall. He will confirm to whom checks should be made out to, where they should be sent, and will create and be responsible for donation acknowledgement letters.

New Business

Pamme attended the CT Legislature meeting to share ideas with other towns and historic organizations. The State's budget for commemorating America at 250 is \$50,000.

Hildi requested that we add to next meeting's agenda the use of clear, concise language in our America250 commemoration materials.

• Next Meeting: April 16, 2025, 8 am, Town Hall Annex

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Ellis