

**Minutes – Final**  
Approved 12/13/2022  
**Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission**  
**May 10, 2022**  
**11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**  
**GoTo Virtual Meeting Only**

**Commission Participants:**

Laura Trieschmann, chair  
Jim Brangan, vice chair  
James Lockridge  
Israel Provancha  
Susan McClure  
Jonah Spivak  
Paul Deslandes

John Krueger  
Melody Machin  
Stephen Perkins  
Martin Mahoney  
Tom Hughes  
Heather Pelham

**Commission Absent:** Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup

**Staff Participants:**

Cynthia Davis  
Tracy Martin  
Elsa Gilbertson  
Shannon Konvicka  
Jess Robinson

**Guests:**

Phil Holland, Education Committee  
Mathew Keagle, Fort Ticonderoga  
Alex Piper, 250<sup>th</sup> consultant

Ms. Trieschmann started the meeting at 11:05 a.m.  
Meeting was not recorded

**I. Welcome**

**II. Changes to the Agenda**

- No changes to agenda

**III. Public Comment**

- No public comment

**IV. Review/Approve January 18, 2022, Minutes**

- Mr. Brangan made a motion to accept the minutes; motion was seconded by Mr. Kruger. Motion passed.

## V. Committee Updates

### • Outreach

- Mr. Brangan reported the Committee has met a few times since the last Commission meeting. A plan for collecting feedback from Vermonters is still in development. The outreach plan for public engagement and listening sessions is running a little behind as we continue to draft strategy, engage a moderator, and contract Alex Piper for the content of those sessions. Outreach sessions will run from June through the fall. The Outreach Committee will be meeting again in June and all members of the Commission are welcome to attend.

### • Education

- Mr. Holland reported the Committee is looking toward professional development opportunities with Vermont educators, with the idea of bringing Social Studies teachers up to date with the 250<sup>th</sup>. The Committee continues to engage with Fort Ticonderoga staff regarding to educational programming that the association is already doing in Vermont. Currently, the Education Committee is working to establish the “roots” of communication with the education community.
- Mr. Spivak reminded the Commission of the presentation by Angela Labrador, *Freedom and Unity*, and asked if it could be used as a potential model to draw in the education community. At this time, due to the scope of the initial project creating the presentation, it is not on a platform that others, especially educators and communities, can access.

Mr. Krueger made a motion to explore the scope of work and accessibility options for an expanded platform for the *Freedom and Unity* project, with the chair authorized to spend up to \$10,000; Mr. Hughes seconded the motion.

Motion passed 10-2

Roll call vote

Ms. Pelham: Yes

Mr. Provancha: Yes

Mr. Lockridge: Yes

Mr. Brangan: Yes

Mr. Krueger: Yes

Mr. Spivak: Yes

Mr. Mahoney: No

Ms. Machin: No

Mr. Deslandes: Yes

Ms. McClure: Yes

Mr. Hughes: Yes

Ms. Trieschmann: Yes

### • Financial

- Ms. McClure advised the Vermont Folk Life Center has agreed to fiscal sponsorship of the 250<sup>th</sup> Commission for 2022. The sponsorship will allow the opportunity for use of incoming donations and grant possibilities. Mr. Kruger remarked that this sponsorship will also bring the 250<sup>th</sup> Commission into a closer relationship with the Vermont Folk Life Center. Ms. Trieschmann sent the sponsorship template to general counsel for review and reminded the

Commission that the Executive Order states “one or more” fiscal sponsorships, so the Commission should continue to explore more partners.

## **VI. Opportunity Discussion and Announcement**

- Office of Racial Equity presentation
  - Ms. Trieschmann and Ms. Davis met with Xusana Davis and Shalini Suryanarayana, with the Office of Racial Equity, regarding training sessions for diversity, inclusion, and equity. There will be 3 sessions in June and training will be ongoing throughout the period of outreach. Ms. Davis will be in contact with the Commission to provide the training dates.
- War of 1812 Soldier Reinterment Ceremony, Burlington, June 4, 10 am
  - Ms. Trieschmann provided details pertaining to the exhumation of the soldiers from the War of 1812 in Burlington and the reinterment ceremony, which will include the Honor Guard. Commissioners are invited to attend the reinterment ceremony.
- New England and New York Partnership
  - New England and New York partners are continuing with regular meetings. Vermont most recently met with Rhode Island. Mr. Spivak reported he is working to coordinate with a contact in Connecticut.
- America250
  - All Commission members are welcome to join the regularly scheduled America250 meetings in light of the recent press pertaining to their organization. The Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> Commission does not have a Memorandum of Agreement in place at this time with the federal organization.

**VII. Presentation:** Fred Wiseman presented on *Native Representation at Centennials*.

## **VIII. Adjourn**

- Meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM