



TOWN OF POMFRET, VERMONT

VERMONT 250TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES October 8, 2025, 7:00 PM 5218 Pomfret Road, North Pomfret and by Zoom

Present: Benjamin Brickner, Dottie Deans, Alan Graham, Greg Hartford, Cynthia Hewitt

Public: None.

1. **Call to Order** – Ben called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
2. **Agenda Review** – None.
3. **Public Comment** – None.
4. **Committee Activities**
 - a. **Grant Report.** The draft grant report was reviewed and noted to be in good shape, detailed, and well-written. The main concern was that not all of the grant money had been spent. The spending deadline was September 30 and the report is due Wednesday, October 15. Ben will contact Eileen at the Vermont Historical Society, the grant sponsor, before the submission deadline discuss options. Future planned expenses include website content development, promotional materials, oral history project materials (recording equipment/transcription fees), veterans memorial design planning materials, and administration.
 - b. **Oral History Project.** Due to scheduling conflicts and planned travel, Dottie asked if others could take the lead on the project. The committee reviewed a list of potential interviewees, prioritizing older individuals or those in poor health. Greg offered to assist Alan with conducting interviews. Cynthia offered assistance during the first two weeks of November. The interview format generally involves guided conversation focusing on growing up in Pomfret, school, and memories.
 - c. **Website Development.** Alan continues to load content, including 24 pages of an index that requires checking after being processed using OCR (Optical Character Recognition).
 - d. **Veterans Memorial.** Alan plans to raise the memorial proposal at an upcoming Selectboard meeting (in one week). The Historical Society can contribute \$10,000, and further funds could be raised. The initial design involves a timber frame. Greg and Alan will meet before the next Selectboard meeting to review the plan and reach out to a timber framer to

get an estimated cost for the design and construction. A concern is the site location, specifically identifying utility lines (water, electric, internet) and the location of the septic mound and a proposed underground propane tank, which the Selectboard is considering for installation between the town office and the brick building. John Moore may have knowledge about existing utility lines.

- e. **Community Event Planning.** The committee continued to discuss a series of events for 2026, building upon the initial idea of starting with the annual town meeting information hearing in late February. The committee agreed that partnering with the Town Hall Revitalization Committee is desirable due to overlapping missions and to their success in drawing attendance at a recent event. Alan suggested coordinating a contra dance. Chuck Gundersen is a former DJ. A meeting with Artistree is scheduled for tomorrow; they are excited about coordinating. Artistree was noted as a good location for a silent auction display. Cynthia will reach out to Meg Emmons, chair of the Town Hall Revitalization Committee, regarding coordinating efforts on event work.
 - f. **Stuff We All Get (SWAG).** The committee discussed creating a Pomfret 250th Anniversary logo for t-shirts, hats, or bags (swag) to promote the committee's work and raise funds. The committee may use or modify the Vermont Historical Society's branding artwork, or create an independent design. Greg will look into swag options and contact Terry (who orders for the fire department) to see if they can put something together.
- 5. **Approval of July 22, 2025 Meeting Minutes** – Alan moved and Greg seconded approval of the July 22, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Unanimous.
 - 6. **Other Business** – None.
 - 7. **Review of Assignments** – Ben to call Eileen at the Vermont Historical Society to discuss grant options. Alan to coordinate with Greg on the Veterans' Memorial, present the Veterans Memorial concept at an upcoming Selectboard meeting, coordinate with Greg on oral histories, and ask Chuck Gundersen if he would like to DJ a contra dance event. Cynthia to contact Meg Emmons regarding coordinating efforts on event work with the Town Hall Revitalization Committee, and offer assistance with oral histories during the first two weeks of November. Greg to assist Alan with the Veterans Memorial design, meet with Alan before an upcoming Selectboard meeting to review the Veterans Memorial plan and reach out to a timber framer for estimated design and construction costs, look into swag/logo options (e.g., t-shirts, hats, or bags) and contact Terry (fire department) to see if items can be put together, and assist Alan with oral history interviews.
 - 8. **Adjournment** – Dottie moved and Alan seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.