



TOWN OF POMFRET, VERMONT

VERMONT 250TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

DRAFT

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
March 11, 2026, 7:00 PM
5218 Pomfret Road, North Pomfret
and by Zoom

Present: Benjamin Brickner, Marie Cross, Dottie Deans, Alan Graham, Cynthia Hewitt

Public: Kris Graham, Jocelyn Randles, Mary Worrell

1. **Call to Order** – Ben called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
2. **Agenda Review** – None.
3. **Public Comment** – None.
4. **Committee Activities**
 - a. **Contra Dance Logistics and Materials.** Alan reported that the Contra Dance is scheduled for May 23, 2026, at the Pomfret Town Hall. David Millstone will call, accompanied by Carol Compton and Thal Aylward. Alan has designed a poster and dance cards; once the performers have confirmed their participation, he will begin distribution. Tickets will be \$15–20 for adults, with free admission for students under 18. The event will start at 7:30 pm, with a 7:00 pm arrival time for families with young children. The committee discussed whether advance ticket sales or reservations would be helpful to manage attendance given the venue capacity of approximately 100; some members noted that contra dances do not typically require reservations. Marie offered to assist Alan with desktop publishing and layout for the poster.
 - b. **Recipe Book Update.** Cynthia has collected many recipes and will send out another solicitation on the listserv and in the Vermont Standard, with a submission deadline of May 1st. She will also explore formatting and printing options, including Amazon self-publishing. Marie will work on designing a logo for the cover of the book and for other promotional materials.
 - c. **Veteran Memorial Update.** Alan reported that he has an initial design and significant community interest in the project. He is seeking a work crew to safely remove the bell from the Town Hall and identify storage space with a concrete or gravel floor suitable for a heavy bell during renovation and cleaning. He plans to contact Dig Safe regarding the location of underground utilities before finalizing the memorial site. The schematic will

be shared with potential donors. The proposed project budget is approximately \$15,000, which includes a \$10,000 contribution from the Pomfret Historical Society. The committee discussed a goal of completing the project by Veterans Day, November 11, 2026. The memorial design envisions including a barcode system linking to veterans' biographical information (with public Wi-Fi available from the adjacent town office building). Alan also noted that volunteers will be needed to assist with setting up historical artifact displays at the Town Hall, and he will circulate a description of the tasks involved.

- d. **Video Interview Update.** Chandler Evans has volunteered to handle video filming for the oral history project. Alan will coordinate with him on scheduling and will develop a list of interviewees, prioritizing older residents and those with long memories of Pomfret. The committee discussed the need to create a brief interview script and oral release forms. Interviews are expected to run approximately 30–45 minutes and may be edited for length. The committee will post a listserv announcement seeking volunteers and interviewees, and will discuss how finished recordings will be archived and made accessible to the public.
 - e. **Schedule Upcoming Events.** The committee discussed a year-round calendar of events running from the Contra Dance on May 23rd through Veterans Day on November 11th. Artistree is planning an outdoor event on October 4, 2026, and the committee agreed to aim to participate that day. Cynthia will contact the S6 scheduler to inquire about availability for that date. The Town Hall has been tentatively reserved and is being considered for a culminating silent auction event. A suggestion for a “Pomfret Crawl” – a self-guided tour of participating venues – drew enthusiasm. The Abbott Memorial Library expressed interest in joining the celebration.
 - f. **Branding (logos, etc.).** The committee discussed creating a Pomfret 250th Anniversary logo for use on promotional materials including t-shirts, hats, and other merchandise. Dottie and Marie will collaborate on the design, considering elements such as the town's hills, ski runs, and apple orchards. The committee agreed to emphasize that Pomfret is celebrating its 265th birthday – having been chartered in 1761 – while participating in the statewide Vermont 250th celebration. The logo will need to be consistent with Vermont state branding guidelines given state funding received by the committee.
- 5. **Coordination with Woodstock 250th Celebration Committee** – Cynthia will reach out to the Woodstock 250th Celebration Committee to secure a space for a Pomfret presence on the Woodstock Green on July 4th. She will also coordinate with the manager of the Mt. Tom Farmers' Market to arrange Pomfret's participation in the July 4th market at S6.
 - 6. **Approval of October 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes** – Cynthia moved and Dottie seconded approval of the October 8, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Unanimous.

7. **Other Business** – None.

8. **Review of Assignments**

- a. Alan – Finalize Contra Dance poster (confirm musical lineup details with David Millstone before publication); distribute posters at local contra dances and Upper Valley locations; send final poster and image to webmaster for publication on the Pomfret website; send schematic of Veterans Memorial to committee members and webmaster; contact Dig Safe and coordinate with K. Graham & Associates on site planning; organize a work crew for bell removal and identify suitable storage space; send out listserv announcements regarding the Veterans Memorial project and video interview project; coordinate with Chandler Evans on video interview scheduling; circulate list of historical artifact display volunteer tasks.
- b. Cynthia – Send out recipe solicitation on the listserv and in the Vermont Standard with May 1st deadline; explore book formatting and printing options; contact S6 scheduler to inquire about October 4th availability; reach out to Woodstock 250th Celebration Committee and Mt. Tom Farmers' Market manager regarding July 4th participation.
- c. Marie and Dottie – Develop a Pomfret 265th/Vermont 250th Anniversary logo and determine appropriate merchandise offerings; design logo for the cookbook cover.
- d. Ben – Draft a combined listserv announcement incorporating input from committee members on the above projects.

9. **Adjournment** – Cynthia moved and Dottie seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.