

FALMOUTH 250
MINUTES – MEETING NO. 23
Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 2:00 pm

Location: Museum on the Green Cultural Center, 55 Palmer Avenue, Falmouth, MA 02540

Attendees: Karen Rinaldo, Bob Ripley, Rachel Lovett, Tamsen George

Absent: Peter French, Catherine Bumpus, Bob Mascali (Select Board Liaison), Sandra Stosz

Also Attending: Rosemary Carey (Indivisible Falmouth), Erin Usawicz (Education Assistant, Falmouth Museums on the Green) Lin Lin Hutchinson (Falmouth Enterprise)

1. Public Comment: Rosemary Carey addressed the Committee on behalf of Indivisible Falmouth, noting that the organization works with eight co-organizers and regularly hosts civic engagement activities, including weekly gatherings on the Green. She described a proposed improvisational program centered on civil rights, equality, and civic ideals, featuring short scripted skits that might include historic figures such as George Washington engaging with modern-day citizens. Ms. Carey inquired whether there might be an opportunity for collaboration with the Falmouth 250 Committee to broaden audience engagement. Committee members reiterated that Falmouth 250 is a non-partisan committee with a term expiring at the end of 2026. Discussion included asking for clarification on how collaboration might occur, requesting further explanation of Indivisible Falmouth's role in the program, and whether any local church partners were involved. The importance of historically accurate portrayals was emphasized. It was reiterated that the Committee is not seeking to focus programming on critiques of the Founding Fathers. The Committee may revisit the proposal at a later date.

2. Approval of Minutes: The meeting did not have a quorum; thus, the minutes from the meeting held October 15, 2025, were reviewed but could not be approved.

3. Continued Discussion and Updates on Falmouth 250 Programming

The Committee reviewed upcoming and proposed programs, including:

- March 26, 2026 – Lecture by Dr. David Martin on the Battle of Falmouth (Museum)
- April 9, 2026 – Calligraphy lecture by Rick Pallus, former White House calligrapher (Museum)
- May 21, 2026 – Lecture by Dr. Richard Bell, *Globalizing the American Revolution (Museum)*
- June 4, 2026 – New exhibition opening (Museum)
- July 1, 2026 – Plaque dedication ceremony (Falmouth Heights)
- July 16, 2026 – Lecture by Dr. David Martin on Cape Cod and the Islands (Museum)

Discussion also included a proposed July 3rd Community Day in celebration of the 250th, at the museum, potentially featuring an open house, public reading of the Declaration of Independence, music, and re-enactors. Anticipated expenses discussed included bunting, performers, and related materials. The Committee discussed the possibility of organizing a group visit to the newly opened museum at Paul Revere's Foundry in Canton, Massachusetts as there is a Paul Revere-made bell in town.

4. Status of Commemorative Stone and Plaque – Falmouth Heights: The temporary plaque has been installed. The permanent plaque is scheduled for installation by Baker Monument, with a dedication planned for July 1, 2026. Potential speakers for the dedication were discussed.

5. Liberty Tree Society Program: An update was provided on discussions with the Town arborist regarding participation in the Liberty Tree Society initiative. It was agreed that a smaller tree would be more appropriate than a larger specimen. Further details, including the planting location, will be discussed at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 2:00 pm at Museum on the Green.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Lovett