



Ad-hoc Semiquincentennial / Tri-centennial Committee

Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2025

City Council Chambers

37 Green Street, Concord NH

1. Having reached a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by Councilor Kretovic.
Attending:

Jennifer Kretovic, Council Representative Co-Chair
Mayor Byron Champlin
Brent Todd, Council Representative
Rik Yeames

Co-Chair Jim Bouley
Jim Milliken
Gabe Szczepanik

Absent:

Amanda Grady Sexton, Council Representative
Jessica Martin (Late Arrival)
Donna Robie
Fisto Ndayishimiye (Late Arrival)

Kris Schultz, Council Representative
Steve Leone
Cindy Foote

2. Meeting Minutes – a motion was made by Jim Bouley to table approve the meeting minutes of October 30, 2025. Meeting minutes were not distributed with the agenda and attendees had not reviewed these. The motion was duly seconded and passed. The item is tabled to January 13th, 2026
3. Councilor Kretovic took note of the attendees. Our new Chamber Representative, Gabe Szczepanik was welcomed to the committee.
4. Fourth of July Parade discussion: At the invitation of Rik Yeames, the committee welcomed Brian Blackden, Parade Chair for the Pineconia Grange Christmas Parade and Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. David Hatch, Jr, also an integral part of organizing the Christmas Parade attended with Mr. Blackden.
 - a. The committee had extensive discussions with regards to the logistics of organizing a parade in the city of Concord. The first note was securing July 4th and Main Street being closed for the festivities assuring that no other organization does this in advance of our committee.
 - b. Mr. Blackton and Mr. Hatch offered ideas of potential participants in the parade, these included; Concord Fire Department, Concord Police Department, several of our nonprofits, representation by several military organizations the Marine Group out of Bow, Patriot Guard, Civil Air Patrol. Already expressed to Mr. Blackton and Mr. Hatch was participation by Wayne Ferns who operates Concord Airport, possibly doing something about the historic Charles Lindbergh landing at Concord NH. Continuing the list: the Fife and Drum Band, Salvation Army band might be available the Army band and then the McGann Marching Band.

- c. There was a brief discussion with regards to whether businesses should be able to participate. Members of the committee thought it might be appropriate especially for businesses that have operated in the City of Concord for over 100 years. Also noted, there are about 125 floats that participate in the Christmas parade. These are typically pulled by commercial vehicles.
 - d. We likely need a parade that should be at least a mile long as there might be 50 to 60 entries.
5. State of NH 250 Committee: Co-chairs Bouley and Kretovic met with Ashley Miller, Commissioner of the State Archive and Matthew Flanders, Director for the Bureau of Historic Sites. The State of planning events on the Statehouse lawn on the Fourth of July, with speeches from the Governor and other dignitaries, the Fife and Drum players, the Lafayette reenactors and a cannon firing. All agreed it would be ideal to have the parade lead people to the State House for their activities. Following, the NH Historical Society will be open for tours.
 6. Event Budget for July Fourth Activities: The committee discussed opportunities to enhance the 4th of July Celebration that we have today. It was recommended that the committee seek a budget of \$50,000 with approximately \$30,000 already allocated to the annual celebration at Memorial Field, through the Recreation Department. With a possible contribution from the State of just over \$9,500, The added request is \$10,000. Co-chairs Bouley and Kretovic will arrange a meeting with City Manager, Tom Aspell.
 7. Logo Designs: The committee reviewed three designs for the 300/250. One design did appeal to the group, and Co-chair Kretovic will follow up with committee member Cindy Foote to make the slight modifications.
 8. Next meeting dates: Space in Council Chambers has been reserved for the 2nd Tuesday of the month; January 13, 2026, and February 10, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.
 9. Motion to adjourn was made by Co-chair Bouley and was duly seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting closed at 9:25pm

Minutes submitted by Councilor Kretovic.