

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL STEERING
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025, AT 10:00 A.M.,
ROOM 210, 84 SOUTH MAIN ST.**

Present: Diane Calabro, Vice Chair; Ron Gagliardi, Ray Bennett

Staff/Guests: Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manager, Savannah Blantz- Maria, Coordinator of Grants & Community Engagement.

Absent: N/A

1. ROLL CALL.

The Meeting was called to order at 10:05am and a quorum was present.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

The Pledge was recited.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18TH, DECEMBER 4TH, AND DECEMBER 7TH.

Motion was made by Ray Bennett and seconded by Ron Gagliardi to approve the meeting minutes from the previous meetings and seconded by Ron Gagliardi. All voted in favor.

4. BUSINESS.

a. 250th Announcement Letter.

The committee requested a PDF and 50 hard copies to distribute and will be making in person visits. The Committee discussed the presentation to the Town Council scheduled for Tuesday, December 16th.

b. Graphic History Project.

Diane has been working with ArtsPlace to develop a free or nominal fee program at Artsplace. Diane showed an example by Margaret Kimball who at one time lived-in Cheshire.

c. Winter Wonderland Recap.

The Committee had a great turnout (please see minutes from December 7th).

d. Ball & Socket Holiday @ the Factory.

The event is this Sunday, December 14th. Representatives from BaSA and Artsplace have offered the Brush room for setup (1-5pm).

e. Bartlem Park, July 4th, 2026, Event Logistics.

1. Welcome Prayer / Pledge of Allegiance
2. Star Spangled Banner – Audience Participation
3. Open Time Capsule – in conjunction with the Historic Society (1976)
4. Patrick Henry's Speech
5. Events leading up to the Declaration – list of grievances
6. Flags of the Revolution
7. My Country Tis of Thee – audience Participation
8. Declaration of Independence

Mr. Bennett asked if the Town color guard could be present and if Cipully tree could fly the American Flag at the entrance to the Park. Mr. Gagliardi discussed Time Capsules and the creation of one for the Town and individual. Mr. Martelli will look into possible food for the event. By the end of April the Committee will have a formalized schedule for the event.

f. January 12th, 250th presentation of DAR at Society Meeting Room.

On February 18th the Grange will be holding a meeting dedicated to those that signed the Declaration of Independence. The Meeting on January 12th the Committee will be presenting to the DAR and this will be the first of many that the Committee will be presenting to various community groups.

g. Website Coordination: Town of Cheshire, Bennett Family, Historical Society

Savannah Blantz-Maria shared the initial town website page and received feedback from the Committee.

h. Grant Submission and other funding opportunities

Diane presented different grant opportunities to the Committee. Savannah will be working toward submission of a grant. Ms. Calabro presented a funding plan for the Cheshire Semiquincentennial Graphic History Project. The goal is to submit a grant for the January 5th deadline to the State to support the graphic memoir project.

5. FUTURE MEETING DATES.

The next meeting will be January 13th at 10:00am and continue to be the second Tuesday of the month and June 30th, 2026, for planning purposes for the July 4th event with a wrap up meeting on July 14th, 2026. A motion was made by Ray Bennett and seconded by Ron Gagliardi with all voting in favor of approving the future meeting dates.

6. ALL OTHER BUSINES.

Ron discussed NUMLETS and his cartooning. He presented USA or ASU and his idea to teach a class for children and their grandparents. He wants to present USA (pronounced USS-A). Diane suggested that USA needs to tell a Cheshire story and its relation to the Committee and be integrated into the graphic memoir project. An oral history of the event was discussed. Ron will be gathering information on a Time capsule and presenting information under a specific agenda item at the January meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Ron Gagliardi motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Ray Bennett seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously, 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Attest:



Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manager