

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL STEERING
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026, AT 10:00 A.M., ROOM 207,
84 SOUTH MAIN ST.**

Present: Diane Calabro, Ron Gagliardi, Ray Bennett

Staff/Guests: Savannah Blantz- Maria, Coordinator of Grants & Community Engagement, Mitzi Romano, President of Cheshire Historical Society, Breina Schain – Cheshire Trail Trekkers, Ron Kochman, Cheshire Today, Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manger

Absent:

1. ROLL CALL.

The Meeting was called to order at 10:00am and a full quorum of the Committee was present.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

The Pledge was recited.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 10TH 2026.

Motion was made by Diane Calabro and seconded by Ray Bennett to approve the meeting minutes from the Meeting of March 10, 2026 with the one change of correcting the spelling of June.

4. BUSINESS.

a. 250th Announcement Letter update.

- i. No change.

b. Graphic History Project.

- i. The project is going well and various pages are falling into place.

c. Bartlem Park July 4, 2026, Event Logistics.

- i. Ray stated that things are beginning to fall into place. The police chief or his designees have confirmed attendance. Ray shared a DRAFT program booklet that contains the history of the pledge, American Creed that the DAR will read, National Anthem Discussion, and a schedule will be added to the back for the morning events.

Diane suggested adding the date of incorporation to the agenda and the names of the steering committee members. Lydia Bennett is working on the various posters to have around the park for each of the signers of the Declaration of Independence on the 26 poles around the great lawn. Darter will be working on the signs for the poles approximately 60 signs representing the 58 signers. The presentation was discussed and an agenda will be set. Additional musical acts were discussed. Various Community Organizations are being asked to participate.

The Committee discussed the idea of a “swag bag” for attendees to collect various items being handed out. Ron to follow up with the Poet Lauret about drafting an official poem for the event. Park Logistics are being discussed for traffic control etc. Andrew to follow up with the fire department to determine if they can bring an apparatus to the event.

The opening of the time capsule was discussed and how Peter and Sean will be presenting the various items contained within. Lydia will be potentially filming the event to do a live feed. Andrew to ensure that the banners will be up on the poles, request apparatus to come to the

park, coordinate with Parks & Recreation and Trail Trekkers to help welcome and guide attendees, Request Cipulli to come with the flag for the event. A guest book will be added for those that attend to sign their names and add a small note.

d. Pizza Box Time Capsule.

- i. Diane reported that she was contacted about the Pizza Box Time Capsule and she pointed them to the Town's website and the Town Square Publication. There will be the Pizza Box Time Capsule as well as a permanent time capsule to be held in a safe at the Town Hall. Ron discussed a pizza box competition where we designate a place to have a pizza box capsule competition, and this might be held at the library toward the end of 2026. A 10-year time capsule, 25-year capsule, and a 50-year time capsule will be developed.

e. Future Visits and Presentations

- i. April 25th – Historical Society Annual Meeting where the America 250 will be discussed as well as a presentation on the historic letters found at the old plaza block.
- ii. May 2 – Suburban Plant Sale at Youth Center
- iii. May 24 Memorial Day Parade – Float 1-4 meeting at Dodd Middle School
- iv. June 6th Patriotic Walk of the Trail Trekkers behind Humiston and proceeding at various locations in the Town Center (begins at 10am)
- v. June 13th CT Open House at Cheshire Historical Society – Strawberry Festival

f. Website Coordination Update: Town of Cheshire, Bennett Family, Historical Society, ArtsPlace, Library and others.

- i. The Website is up and a feature will continue to be in the Town Square with information about the events.

g. Grant Submission and other funding opportunities

- i. Donations have been received from the Cheshire Historical Society and directly from Breina Schain. Other donations will be requested to support various events / produce items for the day and the time capsule project.

5. FUTURE MEETING DATES.

- i. May 19th, June 9th, June 30th, and a wrap up meeting on July 14th.

6. ALL OTHER BUSINESS.

- i. Mr. Gagliardi presented ideas for the time capsules and a plaque received from Mr. Nolan, former Cheshire High School Earth Science Teacher, that has a core sample from under the Cheshire High School Library. Ron discussed his involvement with AATH the Association of Applied and Therapeutic Humor and his goal of making Cheshire the International Humor Capital of the World. Mr. Kochman discussed the next issues of Cheshire Today and adding current events.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Ron Gagliardi made a motion to adjourn the meeting Ray Bennett motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Diane Calabor seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously, 2-0. The meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Attest:



Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manager