

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL STEERING
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 19, 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 Manager

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 APRIL 14, 2026 MEETING.

Motion was made by Diane Calabro and seconded by Ray Bennett to approve the meeting minutes from the Meeting of April 14, 2026.

4. BUSINESS.

a. Graphic History Project.

Diane shared the working title page and requested Savannah make an edit following the America 250th Party and revise the cover to the graphic history novel.

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

Ray stated that things are beginning to fall into place. Mr. Bennett will be on site at 9:00am the day of the event. 60 signs will be up on July 1st 18 x 24 zip tied onto the poles with four larger signs at the bandshell the installation is being referred to as the Patriotic Promenade – (July 1st – July 15th).

Ray has received pricing in the amount of \$800-900. Andrew to provide an accounting of total project funds to date. Andrew to contact Cipulli to determine if they can hang a flag at Bartlem Park. The schedule of events was discussed and will be finalized by the next meeting.

Mr. Bennett has asked that Town Manager, Sean Kimball and Chairman of the Town Council, Peter Talkbot open the time capsule on stage. Diane has asked everyone to share information about the event on Facebook, Cheshire Today, and the Town Square Newsletter.

Andrew provided a Copy of the Declaration of Independence that was received from the Son's of The American Revolution and Diane will be placing it in the display case in the Town Hall lobby.

c. Pizza Box Time Capsule.

Ron shared a small Altoid's box's for the committee to put small items in to incorporate into the time capsule. There will be a meeting to discuss the time capsule after the July 4th event. It was agreed that the focus of the next few meetings would be on the logistics for July 4th.

d. Future Visits and Presentations

- i. May 24 Memorial Day Parade – Float 1-4 meeting at Dodd Middle School
- ii. June 6th Patriotic Walk of the Trail Trekkers behind Humiston and proceeding at various locations in the Town Center (begins at 10am)
- iii. June 13th CT Open House at Cheshire Historical Society – Strawberry Festival

e. Website Coordination Update.

No Change

f. Grant Submission and other funding opportunities.

- i. The licensing agreement has been executed by the Town Manager and approved by the State of Connecticut. It has been approved to be placed on any communication / promotional items as long as it is not used on items sold by the committee.

5. FUTURE MEETING DATES.

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

6. ALL OTHER BUSINESS.

- i. No other business was discussed.

7. ADJOURNMENT.

Ron Gagliardi made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Diane Calabor seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously, 2-0. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Attest:



Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manager