

Stow Minuteman Company – Quarterly Company Meeting May 27, 2023

Voting Members in Attendance:

Bob Stokes
Ryan Hayward
Karen Walrath
Jacob Shiller
Stephen Balzac
Ann Gibson
Bonnie Brench
Jeff Needle
David Walrath

Other Members and Guests in Attendance:

None

9:05 am – Technical Meeting Start

9:06 am – Springfest Encampment

We need assistance to bring items over to Springfest to setup for the weekend. Ann and David agree to help transport items. 2 flies, 2 tables, and craft items. Bonnie also available to help if needed. Lots of room in her van. Rosa and Joanna might be able to participate. Meet at Bobs at 9am to help pack.

9:20 am – Gaspee and Bunker Hill Parade

There should be a healthy turnout for both of these events. For Gaspee, the self-shuttle worked well. We decided to try the shuttle this year. Bunker Hill will have more participants from Maine if Charlestown has no people to participate. Otherwise they'll fall in with Stow.

9:35 am – Bolton Fair

Bolton Fair will be happy to have us again. We need to make sure we plan for setup and breakdown as it is a long day.

9:40 am – Trail March and Battle Road Weekend

To start, we want to not be waiting around at the National Park for hours. Jacob noted that for 2025, the Patriots Day Weekend events at NPS will be on the 19th. For 2024, there will be a shuffling of events to get better numbers. Will try and push it to a day where they'll have a large influx of reenactors. Back to the politicians and parade, they were late and we had to wait 45

minutes. If we have to stand around for an hour after marching 9.5 miles, that just is not feasible. Need to discuss starting later at our next Annual Meeting.

Need more periods of rest and rout stepping. We use to do it when we were in the woods, but now that it's been eliminated, we can change it up. It worked well this year to have those period of break.

Rideout Playground, need to plan further out for 2023 so the bathroom is open. We need to make sure there is time they are ready for us. We need to start planning in February, 2023. It use to be a key and now it's an automated time lock. We will work with Concord Rec to make sure we plan better.

Food worked well. We track food but we can't really plan as there's so many variables. Thank you Jeff for doing breakfast!

Firing complaint at Acton was discussed. We've been doing the trail march since the Bicentennial and this was the first negative comment. We will carry on as planned.

10:00 am – Rising Costs

Bonnie brought up that we need to be mindful of what we are spending. We may end up in the red soon after many years of being in the black and having a flush kitty. Bob noted we received increases from many parades so it balanced out.

We increased the porta potties which increased the cost, but we worked well as it allowed everyone to use them who needed them.

Ryan needs to be reimbursed as he was charged for the cost of the units. Ryan asked Bonnie to poke Mat to process his reimbursement.

We need to think about having a lead or a trail card to be able to handle transporting people who need shuttled or for if they were left behind. We will have less dependency on police if we have a trail car.

For the police, we should try and keep them. Unfortunately, we need them for 4.5 hours and they have to charge us for 8. The Police Department from Stow follows us the whole way, but Maynard, Acton and State Police follow us. Having the cop car behind us helps control who passes us.

With a general consensus, we decided to not change the start time, but arrive later. Decided to put together a booklet for the trail march for our upcoming anniversary. Need to meet again for our 60th anniversary. Need to have a meeting for OSV.

Motion to adjourn: 10:33 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacob Schiller

Sgt. Adjutant