



CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE
Semiquincentennial (250th Anniversary) Commission
Minutes

Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026

Time: 3:00 PM

Place: East Providence City Hall, 145 Taunton Avenue, Room 306

Voting members present: Meredith Bonds-Harmon (Chair), Sandra Turgeon (Vice-Chair), Patrick Hanner (Secretary), Deborah Ormerod, Nancy Moore and James Moran.

Non-voting ex-officio members present: Erik Underhill, Tom Warzecka, Laura McNamara, Andre Herrera and Brian Turgeon.

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm.

2. Approval of July 16, 2026 meeting minutes

On a motion by Mr. Hanner, seconded by Mr. Moran on a 6-0 vote to adopt the meeting minutes of July 16, 2026.

3. Budge Report

Mr. Hanner presented the budget report. The commission currently has a balance of \$3,250.84 that includes the revenue from the sales of t-shirts. It was agreed upon to order additional t-shirts with a close order date of 8/30 and a pickup date of 9/21. The deadline date of the website needs to be changed.

4. Committee Reports

September Events -Nancy/Onna

The Robert Geake presentation ["From Slaves to Soldiers"](#) is September 21, 2026 from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Newman Congregational Church. Guests should be encouraged to arrive early for displays. A tour of Newman Cemetery will be available with a docent present. Meredith Bonds-Harmon has drafted a press release and will send text to Laura McNamara for a Facebook post. The speaker fee for the panelist are the following: Robert Geake \$75, Loren Spears \$250 and Jason Roomes \$50. Andre Herrera will ask Greg Amore if he is available to moderate.

Book, 2nd Edition Project

Nancy Moore has a list of individuals to be fact-checkers. The fact-checkers will be assigned a section or chapter of the book. The sub-committee should meet in September. The date of Tuesday, 9/5 at 9:00 am was suggested. A draft table of contents and suggestions for additional topics should be discussed.



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Newman Cemetery Event

The Newman Cemetery event is scheduled for October 17, 2026 with events that include a brief presentation by the Mayor, a presentation of 17th and 18th grave marker art engravings, a demonstration by TNT Gravestones on the care and cleaning of grave makers and a self-guided tour of the cemetery. According to Sandra Turgeon, the biographies are almost complete. The Parks Division should be contacted prior to the event to cut the grass. A sound system may be needed. The Planning Department will print brochures, maps and any other items.

Crescent Park Stone Engraving Project

Sandra Turgeon, Brian Turgeon and Patrick Hanner are exploring design options and materials to be used for plaques to be mounted on the stone along with drafting narratives. Topics include indigenous persons, early settlements, resort destinations, civil rights (Emancipation Day) and 1976 to the present.

5. Unfinished Business

250th T-shirt sales

Volunteers are needed to email or call individuals that have purchased t-shirts

Tabling at City Events

It was suggested that possible future events to sell t-shirts could be the Robert Geake presentation "From Slaves to Soldiers", September 21, 2026 from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm and the Newman Cemetery event, October 17, 2026 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Patrick Hanner will be present at the "Archaeological Sites of the Revolutionary War in RI" presentation, October 5, 2026 from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm to sell t-shirts.

Final Event

The release of the second edition of the book *Our Heritage: A History of East Providence* could be the final 250th event. It was suggested by Laura McNamara that a closing event could be held during a City Council meeting with commission members present wearing the 250th t-shirts to be recognized by the City Council for their efforts in organizing and promoting 250th events.

6. Adjourn

On a motion by Deborah Ormerod, seconded by Sandra Turgeon, the Commission voted 6-0 to adjourn the meeting.