




TOWN OF GRANBY

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 16, 2025

TO: The Granby Board of Selectmen
FROM: Mike Walsh, Town Manager 
REGARDING: American 250 – Granby Commission Creation

On July 4, 2026, America will turn 250. Planning for this day is taking place in communities across the State of Connecticut, as well as the country as a whole.

In Connecticut, the State has created a commission called America 250 Connecticut which is helping municipalities across the State with the planning of celebrations and events.

Please see the materials they have forwarded as additional background information.

To that end, the Town of Granby Charter, Section 6-1 provides the Board of Selectmen the ability to appoint by resolution such committees as it may determine appropriate or necessary.

In this case, please consider the brief resolution below which would create the Granby America 250 Committee with the charge of planning Granby events associated with America's 250th birthday.

I will be on hand to answer any questions you may have on this item. Thank you.

The following resolution is submitted for consideration by the Board of Selectmen:

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen, consistent with Charter Section 6-1, does hereby create the Granby America 250 Committee for the express purpose of planning, coordinating, facilitating, and publicizing any events deemed necessary and proper to appropriately recognize and celebrate America's 250th anniversary on July 4, 2026.

April 2, 2025

RECEIVED

APR - 7 2025

TOWN MANAGER

Hon. Denise W. Merrill
Chair

Jason R. Mancini, Ph.D.
Vice Chair

Membership

Nicolas Angeli
Connecticut's Old State House –
Youth Leader

Stephen Armstrong
Connecticut State Department of
Education *

Anthony Champalimaud
Member of the Public

Kathryn D'Amato
Office of the Governor *

Melvette Hill
Commission on Women,
Children, Seniors, Equity &
Opportunity*

Andrew Horowitz, Ph.D.
Connecticut State Historian

Michael Johnson
Mashantucket Pequot Tribal
Nation *

Robert Kret
Connecticut Museum of Culture
and History

Catherine Labadia
State Historic Preservation Office

Margaret Khan
Connecticut Library Association

Merle McGee
Member of the Public

Deborah Schander, MLIS, JD
Connecticut State Librarian

Elizabeth Shapiro
Department of Economic and
Community Development *

Jonathan Slifka
Department of Aging and
Disability Services

Joe Smith
Mohegan Tribe *

Hon. Stephanie Thomas
Secretary of the State

Maissa Tisdale
Mary and Eliza Freeman Center
for History and Community

Sally Whipple
Connecticut Democracy Center

Amrys O. Williams, Ph.D.
Connecticut League of Museums

Mark Fiorentino
First Selectman
15 North Granby Road
Granby, CT 06035

Dear First Selectman Fiorentino,

As you already know, the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence is taking place July 4th, 2026. **Thank you for providing a contact for the Town of Granby, which we have on record as Michael Walsh.** Please let us know if we should make any changes.

As we move into the final year before this important anniversary, we wanted to reach out and share with you some initiatives that will be taking place in 2025.

Two Lights for Tomorrow – April 18-19, 2025

This two-day nationwide initiative uses the imagery of Paul Revere's midnight ride to raise awareness on Friday, April 18, followed by a National Day of Service on Saturday, April 19th to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord. Please see enclosed flyer for more details.

Give 250 Connecticut – July 1-11, 2025

CT Humanities, on behalf of the America 250 | CT Commission, will be hosting 250 hours of fundraising for the 250th. Each local committee will be encouraged to create its own fundraising page via a centralized platform that allows them to compete for cash prizes and receive funding to support their local initiatives.

Town Proclamations – Summer 2025

In preparation for the ceremony that Connecticut would like to host in 2026, a template for a proclamation will be shared with towns this summer, agreeing to align themselves with the goals and vision of the 250th in Connecticut as laid out by the work of the America 250 | CT Commission. Templates will be shared in the coming weeks for signing in or around July 2025.

The Commission is also looking into the possibility of propagating Charter Oak scions and distributing to towns interested in planting a Liberty Tree, plans to loan marketing materials for public events and festivals in your towns, and have sent a survey (forms.gle/aak9AuBhxR4NMQmn8) to local committees to get a better sense of where they are in the planning process and resources that are still needed.

We are excited by all that is coming this year and look forward to sharing events, programs, exhibitions, and initiatives throughout the state next year. We will continue to update our website: www.ct250.org/local. As always, if you have any questions, please contact us at info@ct250.org or 860-986-6704.

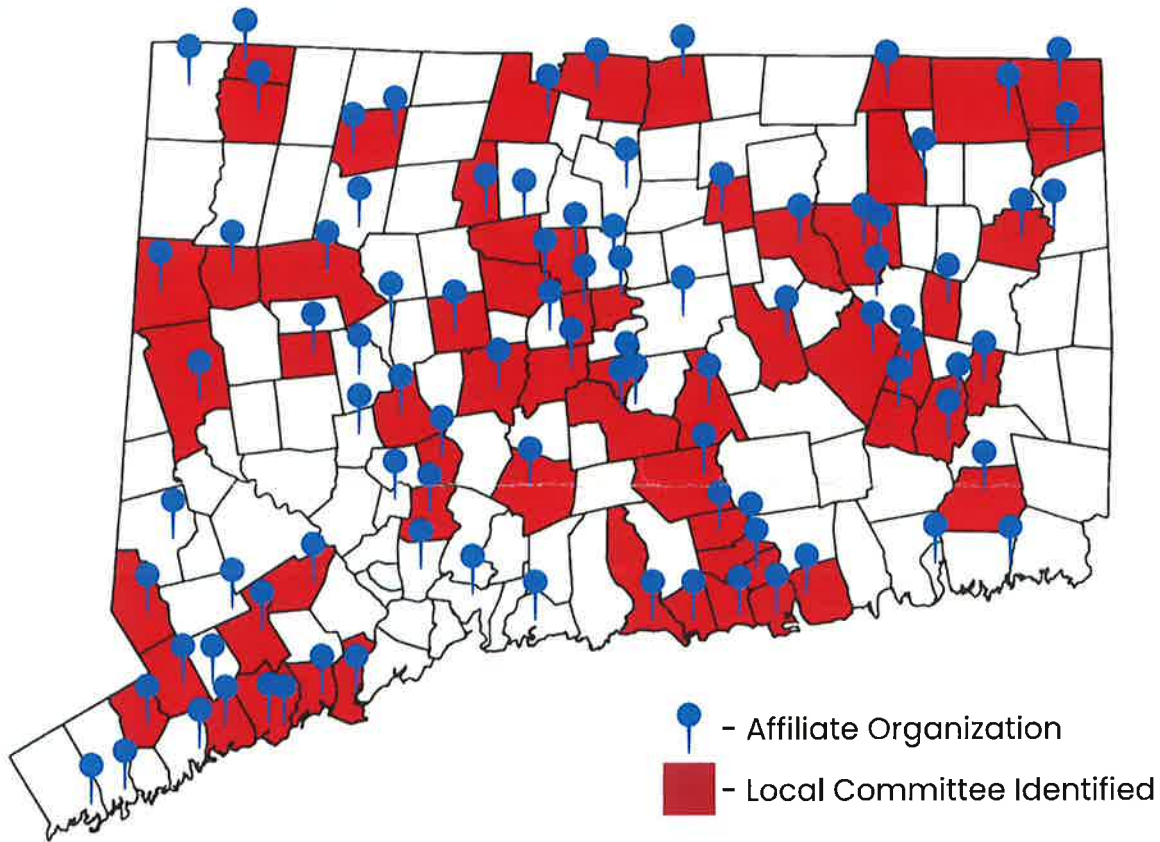
Sincerely,



Cyndi Tolosa

America 250 | CT Project Manager

Local Efforts:



Coming in 2025:

EDUCATE

- 2025 conference
- Educator packet with background and curriculum
- Statewide exhibition
- America's Field Trip and other national efforts

ENGAGE

- Local and state presence at festivals and events
- Site visits and convenings
- Town-by-town proclamations
- Recruit affiliate program applications
- Bring in public service and volunteerism

EXCITE

- CT Visit website and visitation
- Marketing with partner organizations
- Plan signature events leading up to July 4, 2026
- Encourage grant funders to embrace funding America 250 | CT projects

If you have any questions, please reach out to Cyndi Tolosa, America 250 | CT Project Manager, at ctolosa@cthumanities.org or (860) 986-6704.



TWO LIGHTS FOR TOMORROW

APRIL 18-19, 2025

A CALL TO ACTION

Two Lights for Tomorrow is a nationwide initiative to commence the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States' founding. The famous ride of Paul Revere occurred overnight on April 18 – 19, 1775. Two Lights for Tomorrow commemorates that famous ride and uses its imagery as a uniting call to action for our citizens to celebrate and serve.



NATIONWIDE EFFORTS

Commissions across the country are calling on statehouses to display two lights on April 18, 2025. A light shining out in the darkness matters today as much as it did during the Midnight Ride.

On April 19, 2025, states are promoting a day of service. The possibilities for service can be tailored to the needs of each state's residents and in partnership with service organizations.

CONNECTICUT EFFORTS

In Connecticut, we encourage community centers, municipal administrative buildings, museums, cultural centers, private residences, and any other organization that wishes to participate to display 2 lights on the night of Friday, April 18.

On Saturday, April 19, we encourage towns and organizations to plan service projects that will allow the community to come together *For the Common Good*. Some project ideas include:

- Planting flowers or community gardens in public spaces
- Neighborhood clean-up or simple maintenance project (i.e., painting a fence)
- Holding a food & supply drive for a local food pantry
- Writing notes for residents of local care facilities

SHARE YOUR IMPACT

We will publicize a listing of all municipalities and organizations who choose to participate. Please use the QR code or [this link](#) to let us know you're in!

For help publicizing service projects, include a brief description of your plans on your form. **Submit by April 7, 2025.**

Email a recap with an image or two to info@ct250.org so we can share your success! **Submit by May 1, 2025.**

