

Stow Minutemen Company Annual Meeting

January 13, 2024

Voting Members in Attendance:

Robert Stokes (Captain / President)
Ryan Hayward (Lieutenant / Vice President)
Jacob Shiller (Sgt. Adjutant)
Bonnie Brench (Music Master)
Matthew Brench (Sgt. Paymaster / Treasurer)
Craig Schomp (Sgt. Armourer)
Joanna Brench
Rob Caponi
Rick Lawson
Stephen Balzac
Karen Walrath
Cara Schomp
Mathew Schomp
Jeff Needle

Other Members and Guests in Attendance:

None

10:00 AM – Technical Meeting Starts

10:05 - Meeting Called to Order

The Captain arrives; 14 active voting members are present (a quorum being 7 needed), and the meeting is called to order by Lt. Hayward.

10:10 - Approval of Meeting Minutes from January, May, and July, 2023

Rick Lawson made a motion to approve all meeting minutes. Cara Schomp Second'd.
Approved by all.

10:11 – Vote in New Members

None at this time. There was a brief discussion of how to define children who come into the unit as part of families. They are non-voting until 16 but are on the company roster for insurance purposes. Bylaws committee will review.

10:14 – Officers Reports:

10:14 – Paymaster

We brought in more money than we spent. The 2023 Bolton Fair payment is outstanding. Bob will check with them to ask for payment.

Discussion on stopping using the P.O box due to cost, but due to consistency issues, we will continue using the P.O box. The cost increases every year.

Discussion of forwarding mail from the P.O box to the Paymaster. Matt to look into this to see if it is feasible.

Discussion of requesting increased payment for Bunker Hill Parade, although with a promise of higher attendance. Bob will put in the higher request.

We will check on the cost of the storage unit as the amount spent seems low. Ryan reached out to Ann, who will submit reimbursement to the Paymaster. We are current on the unit.

10:33 – Armorers Report

We have powder; we will get more to cover this seasons ambitious schedule.

We plan to make a safety manual for the handling of muskets during drills, parades, encampments, and events. The Lieutenant is working on this.

10:35 Quartermaster Report

We still don't have a quartermaster and would love a volunteer to take the lead on managing our gear. This is not a one-person job; the person is a taskmaster to delegate work to others in the company.

10:36 - Musicmaster Report

We are still holding practices. We are doing well for numbers. Received an adult-sized snare drum as a donation. No longer attending Christmas by Candlelight as they have changed the format and Stow cannot commit to multiple performances over many days.

10:50 Ensign Report

David was absent; no report.

10:50 Captain Report/Events:

OSV Christmas by Candlelight is being dropped.

We have been invited to participate in the 249th and 250th anniversary of the Battle of Menotomy, a revamped event. They would like Stow to participate as a unit so the invitation extends to all members, music, muskets, and civilians. As part of this, Lt. Hayward is leading a mini-trail march from Medford to Arlington. The distance is 3 miles. Many non-reenactor folks in Medford expressed interest in following along (similar to how Stow's trail march is formatted). Lt. Hayward made a motion to accept the Arlington 250th invite and begin to plan for the event. Craig Schomp second'd. Approved by all.

Discussion on resuming the Center School event, or removing it; we no longer have a contact at the school. Elected to drop it for now.

Planning for the 250th Anniversary:

Jacob mentioned that many of the events will be moved around in 2025, and we should be aware of our own planning.

Saturday April 5 – Bedford Pole Capping in the morning; Miram's Corner Exercise in the afternoon.

Saturday April 12 – Tower Park late in the afternoon.

Sunday April 13 – Raid on Barret's Farm

Saturday April 19 – Lexington Green in the early morning. The Battle Road Reenactment morning to afternoon. Late afternoon is the Lexington Parade. Concord will hold their parade mid-morning.

Sunday April 20 – Fife and Drum Muster in Lincoln. Battle of Jason Russell House in the afternoon.

Pertinent to us, the 2025 Concord Parade has been moved to Saturday, while the reenactment at North Bridge remains on Monday, with an inconclusive discussion of

when the trail march will be held. The Committee will review and suggest any changes to the unit.

Discussion to officially remove Tower Park, Center School, and OSV Christmas by candlelight

Discussion to add an encampment in Stow and/or a Christmas event for recruiting.

11:11 Ryan makes a motion seconded by Cara to update the calendar to remove the 3 events. Approved by all.

Proposed Official Company Events:

- Bedford Pole Capping ~ Sat. April 6th 10 am (captain/adjutant)
- Jason Russell House Reenactment ~ Sunday, April 14th @ 10AM (lieutenant)
- Stow Annual Trail March ~ Mon. April 15th @ 4:30 am (captain/adjutant)
- Lexington Muster ~ Sat. May 4th (music master)
- Flag Placement at Lower Village and Hillside Cemeteries, Saturday, May 25th (Jeff N. and Volunteers)
- Newton Veterans Parade ~ Sunday, May 26th 2 pm (\$1000) (captain/adjutant)
- Boylston Memorial Day Parade ~ Mon. May 27th, 10am (\$1200) (captain/adjutant)
- Stow Memorial Day Parade ~ Mon. May 27th, 2pm (captain/adjutant)
- Stow Springfest ~ Sat. June 1st (Saturday before Election, TBD) (captain/adjutant)
- Gaspee Days Parade, Saturday. June 8th (\$1200) (captain/adjutant)
- Bunker Hill Parade, Sunday. June 16th (\$1000) (captain/adjutant)
- Boxboro Fifer's Day events ~ Sat. June 15th (captain/adjutant)
- Needham Parade ~ Thursday, July 4th, 9 AM (\$1000) (captain/adjutant)
- Old Sturbridge Village Rebels and Redcoats Encampment ~ Aug 2nd, 3rd + 4th (adjutant)
- Bolton Fair ~ Saturday, Aug 10th (captain/adjutant) (\$1200)
- Sudbury Colonial Faire and F&D Muster ~ Saturday, Sept. 28th (music master)
- 2025 Annual Company Meeting ~ Sat. Jan 4th ,2025 (tentative) (captain/adjutant)

Ryan motioned to accept the slate of events. Bob second'd. Approved by all.

On that note, Charlestown/Danvers invited us to participate in their preparation for war event at the Rebecca Nurse House on May 4. If anyone is interested, speak to the Lieutenant.

11:13 - Election of Officers – 2024 Season

Officer position	Candidates
Captain / President	Bob Stokes*
Lieutenant / Vice President	Ryan Hayward*
Sgt. Armourer / Safety Officer	Craig Schomp*
Sgt. Adjutant / Clerk	Jacob Schiller*
Sgt. Paymaster / Treasurer	Matt Brench
Sgt. Quartermaster Open	Volunteer Needed
Ensign	Dave Walrath*
Music Master	Bonnie Brench*

* = Candidate for Re-election

Webmaster – Appointed Position	Jeff Stokes
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11:13

Ryan makes a motion seconded by Mathew Schomp to approve the current slate of officers for another year. Approved by all.

11:14 Scholarship

No eligible members for the scholarship. No changes to the process this year.

11:15 Dues for 2024

Ryan made a motion to waive dues for 2024 season. Craig second'd. Discussion ensued on how dues solidify membership but was a pain to track down. We decided we needed a policy on why we would waive dues and what benefit it would provide to the participants. Voted to approve the dues waiving for 2024.

11:16 Ryan made a motion to refer potential changes to a three-person committee to look over the bylaws and propose any changes necessary to match how we are currently administering the organization. They have not been updated since 2008; the committee will review the entire set of bylaws. Big one is to define what membership means. Approved by all.

A reminder to the officers: we need to file our Annual Report for 2022 and 2023. We also need form 990N. We do need to get our nonprofit status reinstated as it appears to have lapsed. We are not a 501(c)3 nonprofit, but we have had non-profit status.

Discussion of food pricing, depending on how we should or should not charge members for meals at events like OSV

11:54 Annual budget

Made minor tweaks to the final budget to reflect the likely income and expenses.

Income:

- Dues: \$0
- Parades: \$6800

- Newton: \$1000
- Needham: \$1000
- Boylston: \$1200
- Bunker Hill: \$1100
- Gaspee Days: \$1300
- Bolton Fair: \$1200

Total Budgeted Revenue: \$6800

•Encampment Expenses: \$850 (food)

•Insurance: \$1450

•Internet (website): \$300

•Musical Instruments: \$250

•"Other": \$300

- \$200ish for PO Box

- \$18.50 for Annual Report filing

•Scholarship: \$0

•Trail March: \$1700

- Dee Bus: \$375

- Port-o-Potties: \$450

- Police Detail: \$700

- Breakfast: \$300

Expenses:

•Advertising: \$0

•Armoury / Black Powder: \$400

•Non-Musical Supplies: \$300 (gear)

•Trailer Budget: \$3500

•Storage Unit: \$2000

Total Budgeted Expenses: \$11,250

Income - Expenses: -\$4,450

11:58 - Ryan makes a motion to approve the amended budget. Bob Stokes Seconds's budget was approved by all present. Budget approved

12:00 Adjourn

Ryan makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Craig Seconds. Approved by all.