

**America 250 Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
September 23, 2025**

**Attendees:**

<b><u>Committee</u></b>	<b><u>Town Staff</u></b>	<b><u>Public</u></b>
Mary Lou Barmby	Gene Dvornick	Battle Robinson – Resident
Nancy Evans		Scott Thomas – So. Del. Tourism
Kitty O’Hara		Russell White – Station 93
Meghan Palazzo		
Faye West		

**Call to Order:**

The Meeting was called to order at 3:31 PM

**Introduction of Committee Members:**

Each committee member took an opportunity to introduce themselves and share information regarding interest in the committee and Georgetown.

**Election of Chairperson and Secretary:**

*Motion: Nancy Evans; Second: Kitty O’Hara to nominate Faye West as Chairperson – Motion Carried (unanimous)*

*Motion: Mary Lou Barmby; Second: Kitty O’Hara to nominate Meghan Palazzo as Secretary – Motion Carried (unanimous)*

**Committee Purpose:**

Gene Dvornick said the Committee was formed to help the Town plan and organize event(s) to celebrate America 250, throughout 2026.

**Open Discussion:**

Gene Dvornick provided information about compliance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), specifically meeting notices & agendas, meeting minutes, and cautions.

Battle Robinson (Resident) shared she was on the Town Bicentennial Committee and was interested in the possibility of doing something at the Old Courthouse, perhaps a garden with flowers, herbs, and a seating area.

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Scott Thomas (Southern Delaware Tourism) shared information about State and County efforts and initiatives related to America 250. One idea was to have all 25 Sussex County municipalities participate in the Return Day Parade.

Russell White (Ambulance 93) shared that the ambulance organization was interested in helping as needed.

Meghan Palazzo shared the library was doing various things, including the American Tapestry Project.

The committee then opened it up to various thoughts/ideas for potential activities (not in any order) to commemorate America 250:

- Encourage the General Assembly to grant Return Day 2026 (Thursday, November 5, 2026, as a full day State Holiday. *Note: Per the Delaware Department of Human Resources, Return Day is listed as a holiday “After 12 noon for State employees living and/or working in Sussex County.”*
- Reading of the Declaration of Independence on The Circle (morning, noon, afternoon)
- Commemoration parade
- Concert
- Fireworks
- Mural
- Patriotic music on The Circle
- Display the WPA painting from Georgetown High School (Georgetown Historical Society)
- Leverage events with Ken Adams – concert, fireworks, other at Georgetown Speedway
- Recognize service branch birthdays
- Old time artisans (candle makers, leather craft, etc.) display and sales
- Scavenger hunt
- Red, white, and blue plantings (planters around Town)
- Coordination with other organizations
  - Boy Scouts (Troop 95)
  - Franklin Masonic Lodge (East Market Street)
  - Daughters of the American Revolution
  - Georgetown Historical Society
  - Historic Georgetown Association

There was discussion about funding, and the committee could seek grants (Delaware 250, Town GREAT Fund, etc.) the Town’s FY 2027 budget, and donations from sponsors and businesses.

Committee members were encouraged to continue to think of ideas and bring them to the next meeting. To keep the committee focused, there was a recommendation to meet more often, until some activities/plans are more solidified.

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**Schedule Next Meeting:**

Meetings were scheduled for the following dates:

- Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 3:30 PM (including a virtual choice)
- Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 3:30 PM

**Public Comment:**

There was no other public comment, most was covered during other agenda item discussion.

**Adjourn:**

***Motion: Kitty O'Hara; Second: Mary Lou Barmby to adjourn at 4:50 PM – Motion Carried (unanimous)***