

TOWN OF COVENTRY

Resolution

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF COVENTRY, CONNECTICUT, ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL EVENT COMMITTEE, KNOWN AS THE “AMERICA 250 | COVENTRY CT COMMITTEE”; ESTABLISHING PURPOSE; CHARGE; MEMBERSHIP; REPRESENTATION; OFFICERS; MEETINGS; REPORTS; STAFF; MINUTES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town of Coventry was established in 1712 within the British Colony of Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, on July 4, 1776, at a meeting of the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia, delegates from Connecticut and 11 other colonies voted to declare independence from Great Britain; and

WHEREAS, several citizens of Coventry, including Captain Nathan Hale, served their new country during the American Revolutionary War providing valuable assistance in the defeat of the British; and

WHEREAS, on July 4, 2026 the United States of America will celebrate its 250th anniversary in every state across the country; and

WHEREAS, in order to commemorate and celebrate 250 years of independence the United States Congress created the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission in 2016 to plan and orchestrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission’s mission is to commemorate and celebrate our 250th anniversary with inclusive programs by sharing experiences that will ignite our imaginations, elevate our diverse stories, inspire service in our communities, and demonstrate the lasting durability of the American project; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2022, Governor Ned Lamont established the America 250 | CT Commission which is responsible for planning the State of Connecticut’s multi-year commemorations, celebrations, and reflections on the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the formation of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the America 250 | CT Commission has encouraged each town and city to plan local events celebrating the 250th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council wishes to form a local committee to plan for events in Coventry commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of the Independence.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF COVENTRY, CONNECTICUT THAT:

Section One: Establishment; purpose; charge

- A) There is hereby created a temporary committee known as the America 250 | Coventry CT Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to plan and coordinate community events and displays commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Independence and celebrating Coventry's contributions, experiences, and history since that historic day that a new nation was formed on July 4, 1776.

- B) The Committee will coordinate with the America 250 | CT Commission and work together to explore how to best celebrate our residents and honor our Town's place in American history. The Committee will coordinate with community groups such as, but not limited to, the Coventry Historical Society, the Booth and Dimock Library, Coventry Public Schools, Veterans organizations, the Lions Club of Coventry, churches, and other civic groups in creating community events. The Committee will plan, coordinate, and sometimes may supervise these events during the yearlong celebration. The Committee may coordinate historic-themed educational displays throughout the Town celebrating America's successes and explaining America's challenges and how we as a Town, State, and Nation persevered to overcome them. The Committee is charged to be creative in how our Town commemorates the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the American experience as lived by our residents, past and present, in Coventry, Connecticut.

Section Two: members; term; representation; officers

The Committee shall consist of seven (7) members. The terms shall be for the life of the Committee, which is not to exceed December 31, 2026, unless extended by the Town Council by Resolution. One member appointed will be the Town Historian; one member will represent the Town Council; one member will represent the Coventry Historical Society; one member will represent Coventry Public Schools; one member will represent the Booth and Dimock Library; and two members shall represent the general public. Nathan Hale Homestead shall hold a non-voting ex-officio seat on the Committee. The Town Historian shall serve as the Chair of the Committee. The Committee shall elect a Vice Chair, who shall chair the meeting in the absence of the Chair. The Vice Chair shall be elected from among the remaining members. The Committee shall elect a Secretary who shall be responsible for the minutes and records of the Committee, and who may chair the Committee in the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair. The Secretary shall be elected from among the remaining members.

Section Three: meetings; reports; minutes; staff.

The Committee shall hold regular, publicly-noticed open meetings at least monthly and may hold additional special meetings as needed. The Chair and/or Vice Chair shall report periodically to the Town Council of the Committee's plans, progress, and activities. The Town Manager may appoint a staff liaison as may be needed. Minutes shall be taken by the Committee Secretary or their designee and record of such minutes shall be kept in the office of the Town Clerk.

Passed and Adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Coventry, Connecticut on this 18th day of November 2024.

TOWN OF COVENTRY

TOWN COUNCIL

Lisa Thomas, Chair

Attest:

Lori Tollman, Town Clerk