



ARTICLE 25
APPROPRIATION FOR 250th ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

CONCORD 2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE COMMITTEE WILL MAKE NO MOTION UNDER THIS ARTICLE

“At the moment of John Buttrick’s word of command ‘fire, fellow soldiers! for God’s sake, fire!’ American national life began. The order was given to British subjects, the order was obeyed by American citizens. Here was the dividing line.”

The 250th Anniversary of the beginning of the American Revolution, like those anniversaries each 50 years since 1825, is an occasion that has been the subject of special recognition and on which Concord has had the privilege of entertaining thousands of guests from all over the world. These visitors, invited and uninvited, including Presidents, Ambassadors, national leaders, dignitaries, and ordinary people motivated by their dedication to our democratic principles have joined us because of the universal impact the “shot heard round the world” has had on human aspirations.

The anniversary we will celebrate in 2025 will prove much the same, and the cost of informing, educating, entertaining, safely transporting, housing, feeding and managing these legions, most of whom will be here during a period of just a few days, is a project that will require a degree of management and expense that is beyond the typical expectations and resources of the Town, and it is important that we provide those who attend and ourselves with a rewarding and memorable experience worthy of the occasion.

We anticipate the total expense will approach \$2million and, despite consultation with members of the Legislature and our representative on the State 250 Commission, we still do not know how much will be funded by the State or Federal governments. Current estimates suggest we can expect little from these sources. It has been suggested that much of the expense may be recouped by increased tax revenues from the business activity and contributions to the local economy made by our numerous guests and participants in the events planned for the celebration, but this remains to be seen.

The Committee is equally aware of the fiscal restraints under which the Town is currently operating, the importance of adhering to the guidelines of the Finance Committee, the need to maintain free cash balances and the financial impact on residents and business owners of increased real estate taxes. As a result, we have worked diligently to finance the first installment of the Committee’s anticipated expenses with \$200,000 already committed by the State and \$500,000 of unallocated ARPA funds received by the Town to replace lost revenue during the Pandemic. **Therefore, the Committee will not be making a Motion under Article 25.**

Since, there will be only one more opportunity after this Town Meeting to make appropriations before the major expenses are incurred in 2025, we may need to seek an appropriation for the balance of the necessary funds at the 2024 Annual Town Meeting when we will have a better idea of the major expenses and the amount available from other sources.

Henry J. Dane
Chair, 2025 Executive Committee