

TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN
HISTORICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 2, 2026

Members Present: Carolyn Gant, Monica Zuba, Joe Bilinski, Colin McLain,
Martin Schwartz, Mary Lou Porter, Carol Coulbourn
Members Absent: Diane Stockinger, Dee Simkins, Henry Kobik
Guest Present: Mark Fiorella

The February 2, 2026 meeting of the Historical Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:05 p.m. in the History Center by Chairperson Carol Coulbourn.

Mrs. Coulbourn reported she emailed information to Susan Orr, from the NJ State Museum, regarding their request for the agreement regarding the artifacts from Rt. 55. The artifacts have been on display since the Community Center opened. The State could not locate their information in their records.

An invitation and information on an event to be held in Paulsboro on Sunday, July 5, 2026 honoring the 250th anniversary of America. The event will be held at Fort Billingsport, the site of the first Homeland Security land purchase by the Federal Government. Groups will need to be set up by 8:00 a.m. and will be offered space for one or two tents. Participants will be required to provide their own tents and tables. Mrs. Coulbourn stated the Historical Committee could have a collage of photos from our Revolutionary War Veterans honors ceremony to be held at Porchtown Church on June 6, 2026, which would fall on D-Day.

Mr. Schwartz reported that there were 2 or 3 Revolutionary War Veterans buried at the Porchtown Methodist Church Cemetery. He noted that they would not have had a full military funeral at the time of their burial. He added that they would not be eligible for a VFW, Veterans of Foreign Wars ceremony, due to the fact they did not fight on foreign soil, but American soil. He did note that American Legion eligibility would apply. He said he could contact the Army for a presentation of colors. An effort could be made to try and contact any possible ancestors of the veterans. He also stated we could purchase an American Flag/s of that period and present one to a descendant and one to the Porchtown Methodist Church. There were 3 types of flags that were in use during the time of the Revolutionary War.

Mrs. Porter stated that she belonged to DAR (Daughter's of American Revolution) and she could search their records for possible descendants.

A suggestion was also made that we should place it on Facebook and the Township's web site that we are trying to locate descendants

It was felt that there could be a connection between the Porch family and the wife of Moses Crane. Mrs. Zuba stated she would check the Porch family records.

Mr. Martin stated that they had special license plates you could purchase and place on the front of your car during the Bi-Centennial in 1976.

Mrs. Coulbourn stated that she had several in the back room of the History Center. We could also have them on display if we go to the event at Fort Billingsport on July 5th and also at Community Day. She suggested perhaps we could offer them as a prize for answering a History question.

Mr. McLain also stated that his Mother had several of the license plates at her home. (*note Mr. McLain's mother, Mrs. Gretchen McLain served on the local Bi-Centinal Committee as well as Chaired the Historical Committee for a number of years.)

Mr. Bilinski stated we could also recognize the event at Community Day with a display. He also reported that we had a group of reenactors at Community Day in the past, and perhaps we could have them again.

Mr. Martin stated he might be able to have a cannon at the Porchtown Church ceremony. He added that veteran Joel Stewart received a NJ State pension for his service. Mosses Crane, the first minister of the Porchtown Church, was also a Revolutionary War Veteran and was buried in the cemetery. Brian Kane was also checking on a 3rd Revolutionary War Veteran that is supposed to be buried at the site.

Howie Kly is the member of the Porchtown Church responsible for the Cemetery records. Mrs. Coulbourn noted that he was very interested in the proposed ceremony to honor Revolutionary War Veterans.

Mrs. Coulbourn reminded members to check the display case in the foyer as they leave. The display highlights Valentine's Day, President Lincoln and President Washington. In addition there is the obituary of Boyd Sands along with his picture from a Delsea High School yearbook. Mr. Sands served as Vice Principal, Principal and Superintendent in the first years of Delsea High. The school opened in September of 1960.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Coulbourn