**Meeting Minutes - Destination Groton Committee (DGC) Meeting**

**Meeting Date:** August 27, 2025

**Attendees:**

* **Committee Members:** Greg Sheldon, Jeff Gordon, Joni Parker-Roach, Brian Bolton, Heather Puksta
* **Sub-Committee member:** Karen Tucker-Barisano

**Meeting Summary:** The committee confirmed a new meeting schedule of noon–2 PM to accommodate member availability. They approved the August 20 minutes with minor corrections and reviewed Stantec’s updated slide deck in preparation for October public forums. The group discussed grant opportunities with the Society of the Cincinnati, focusing on funding for historical plaques and a lecture event, while weighing budget considerations and potential matching requirements. Additional topics included planning a book signing for *Colonel William Prescott, Heroic Commander of the Battle of Bunker Hill*, website updates for reports and upcoming events, postcard reprints, and preparations for promoting Groton in the Scenic America photo contest.

**Discussion Summary**

1. **Meeting Schedule & Minutes**
* Adjusted meeting time set to **noon–2 PM** going forward.
* August 20 minutes approved with minor edits; Jeff abstained from vote.
1. **Public Outreach & Forums**
* Reviewed Stantec’s 41-slide deck for October forums (Oct 1, 8, 15 at Grotonwood, Prescott, and the Groton Center).
* Invite letter and visioning process document to accompany announcements.
* New public survey to launch after Labor Day.
1. **Scenic America Photo Contest**
* Committee promoted Groton’s entries on Facebook, Instagram, and local listserv.
* Noted correction needed for photo credit mix-up.
* Members encouraged to vote daily (one photo per 24-hour cycle).
1. **Grants & Historical Plaque Project**
* Society of Cincinnati grant application under review.
	+ Proposed $15,000 budget for plaques and installation across 15 sites.
	+ $1,000 additional request for lecture honorarium.
	+ Discussion of potential interpretive exhibit at the Visitors Center or educational platform to strengthen application.
	+ Concern over approvals required from the Historic District Commission and others before submission.
	+ Need to clarify approach to partial funding and local match (possible $5K–$10K from gift fund).
1. **Book Signing Event**
* Planning underway for **November 2** author event with Don Ryan.
* Venue options: Prescott Community Center (preferred for thematic connection) or Lawrence Academy as backup.
* Discussion of purchasing books for raffles/giveaways; Brian to confirm pricing with author.
1. **Website & Reports**
* Need to post final economic impact report from Professor Kotval (verify edits).
* Committee discussed grouping reports by categories (visioning framework, mobility, design guidelines, economic assessments).
* Proposed creating a **Mass 250 / Groton 250** page to consolidate materials related to the 250th anniversary.
1. **Postcards & Printing**
* Quotes reviewed for postcard reprints (250, 500, 1000 units).
* Decision deferred pending additional quote from Middlesex Printing.

**To-Do List**

* **Brian Bolton** – Contact author Don Ryan about discounted book copies for giveaways.
* **Heather/Committee** – Call Tom Hunter (Grants & Education Committee Chair) re: grant application process.
* **Committee** – Reach out to Megan at Prescott Community Center regarding fees/capacity for the book signing.
* **Joni** – Contact Josh and Jim to review plan, deliverables, and costs for the plaque project.
* **Committee** – Obtain another printing quote from Middlesex Printing for postcard reprints.