

Town of Somers
Somers Ad Hoc America250 Planning Committee
Wednesday, October 15, 2025
Selectmen's Conference Room

OCT 21 2025
TOWN OF SOMERS

Call to Order: Chair David Pinney opened the meeting at 5:30PM

Members Present: Michael Dietter, Donna Hanks, Scott Kaupin, Michael Marinaccio, Jan Martin, Susan Peck, David Pinney & Guest Brian Wissinger. Not present, Tim Simoes & Michael Clarity.

Minutes: Minutes of the October 1st meeting were reviewed. Michael Dietter made a motion to accept the minutes. Jan seconded. All approved.

Review of events and activities: Brian Wissinger presented his research on Drone show options. **Sky Elements Drone Shows** can put together a show of our choice that will consist of two hundred drones. The benefit of using drones verses a fire works display is as follows. Drones can be operated in rain or shine. The setup area is small, in most cases no bigger than a tennis court. The drones fly at four hundred feet but can be seen for five miles. The timing of the show is approximately 12 – 15 minutes. The company takes care of any permits that may be required. Two locations are being considered, the Field Road Park or the school property athletic fields on Ninth District Road. Sky Elements will need 8 weeks to finalize the content of the show. The cost will be \$35,000.00. After a lengthy discussion, Michael Marinaccio made a motion for the committee to go forward to hiring Sky Elements for the grand finale event on August 15th, 2026. Jan seconded the motion. All approved.

Scott spoke to Michael Savage of the Savage Brothers Band as our headliner for musical events that will be taking place. Their show is 90 minutes long or two 1 hour shows. The cost is \$2,500. Additional costs would be for special staging, sound, and lighting. This would depend on the location, either Field Road or school property. After a lengthy discussion, David made a motion to hire the Savage Brothers Band. Donna seconded. All approved.

The Somers Historical Society has a list of thirty known burial sites in Somers of colonial soldiers that fought in the Revolutionary War. A cemetery "walk about" is being considered as a possible event. This would involve the Somers Cemetery Committee and the American Legion Post 101. Donna will coordinate with the Historical Society for that information.

Donna reported that the Somers Historical Society does not have anything relevant dating back to 1776. The museum building is the former town library that opened in 1896.

Donna reached out to Paul Marinello for a possible Colonial Soldier presentation. Paul has worked with the Historical Society in the past. He will check his availability.

Donna suggested a Time Capsule for the Somers School System. The capsule would include an item from each grade. Location to be determined.

Jan reported that the Somers Congregational Church formed in 1727 has information about events that took place in Somers in 1776.

Susan spoke to the Town Library Director, Joanne Nichting. She has access to the CT State Library on events that took place in Somers in 1776.

David reached out to Mark & Karen Murdoch who own the Worthington Vineyard & Winery for a wine tasting event.

A lengthy discussion took place concerning Food Trucks and asking local businesses to provide food on August 15th. Michael Marinaccio will research what is involved.

Michael Clarity though not present at the meeting, did provide pricing quotes from DG Graphics for banners.

Scott provided a detailed check list for the Committee to consider for the Grand Finale event. This includes Entertainment needs, Food Offerings, Beverage Offerings, Administrative, Operations, Sponsorships, and location. This will be very helpful as the committee moves forward.

Meeting Schedule:

Next meeting to be held in the Selectmen's Conference Room, Wednesday October 29th at 5:30pm.

Michael Dietter made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00pm. Donna seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna E. Hanks, Secretary