

**Town of Somers
Somers Ad hoc America250 Planning Committee
Wednesday, December 3, 2025
Selectmen's Conference Room**

Agenda

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:31pm.

Members present: Jan Martin, Michael Clarity, Susan Peck, Michael Marinaccio, David Pinney, Scott Kaupin, and Michael Dietter

Others Present: Christine Naseralla

1-A. Special Item

Chair Pinney shared that Donna Hanks has resigned her position creating a vacancy as well as a need to nominate a new Secretary. Jan made a motion for Michael Dietter to be Committee Secretary, Scott seconded, motion passed unanimously.

The Committee wishes to thank Donna for her service to the America250 Planning Committee.

2. Opportunity for public comment

No members of the public participated in public comment

3. Minutes from November 12, 2025

Motion to approve by Jan, Seconded Susan. Minutes unanimously approved as presented.

4. Report to Selectmen

David presented the Committee with a written report that had been shared with the Somers Board of Selectmen dated November 17, 2025.

5. Prospects for engaging a reenactment group

David shared that he had communicated with reenactment groups in the region. Unfortunately, the August 15, 2026 date coincides with a larger assembly in Sturbridge, MA. As such, many organizations are participating in the Sturbridge program and it is unlikely that we will have a group for the 8/15 date. Michael Clarity shared that he has identified a Fife and Drum organization and will follow up with specifics (date, time, etc).

6. Other activities for August 15 or other dates

The Committee members shared ideas including:

- Fife and Drum

- Fly over from Westover AFB
- Static Displays (militaria and agricultural)
- Period games (rec department)
- Historical Society displays
- Bands/performances for different audiences
 - Big Band/Swing
 - Kids
 - Jazz
- School band/chorus performances or static displays of student art, etc.

Committee members agreed that securing funding and developing a budget would help steer decision making re: activities and performances. Scott will begin to develop an events schedule/timeline for the 15th.

7. Budget and fundraising

The committee continued previous discussions relative to a budget and funding sources. Members agreed that identifying community based organizations/businesses that may be interested in sponsorship was an appropriate next step. David will work with Jan and Selectman Keeney to identify resources and plan for next steps. Selectman Keeney will be signatory for any contracts required by performers , vendors, etc..

Additionally, the committee will develop the following:

- A targeted mailing campaign for January
- Use of the Fire Department Community Scrooler for “getting the word out”
- SPS school based newsletters, mailers, message boards, etc
- A tiered sponsorship structure and promotional campaign
- Sponsorship opportunities for flags or individual donation structures

Scott and Mike will meet to develop a spreadsheet for budget development and tracking.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 PM