

**Town of Somers Somers
Ad hoc America250 Planning Committee
Wednesday, January 21, 2026 – 5:30pm
Selectmen's Conference Room
Minutes**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pinney at 5:30pm.

Committee members present: Jan Martin, Susan Peck, Michael Marinaccio, David Pinney, Scott Kaupin, and Michael Dietter.

2. Opportunity for public comment

Karen Murdoch of Worthington Winery expressed interest in collaborating for the townwide America 250 celebration. Preliminary dates and activities such as an art show or other displays were shared/discussed. All members agreed this is a great opportunity and location for a potential gathering.

3. Minutes from January 7, 2026

Upon a motion from Scott Kaupin seconded by Mike Marinaccio, the minutes from 1/7/26 were approved.

4. Fundraising

Chair Pinney shared an update to the Committee regarding a possible underwriter for the drone show. Details will be worked out including sponsorship/underwriter recognition, etc.

Other community resources were discussed including sponsorship of a “Kid’s Section” at the Field Road location for 8/15/26.

The Committee identified that a Town hosted webpage with the ability to donate or purchase event related items is a priority. There have been ongoing discussions between the Chair, committee members, and town representatives regarding this priority need. Examples from other communities and formats have been shared/provided.

Field of Flags mailer is in process. The Committee is seeking a price comparison for tabbed one pager vs. envelope insert.

5. Activities for Aug 15, 2026

The tentative schedule proposed at the 1/7/26 meeting was discussed further with no additions or deletions..

Sky Elements has shared a working timeline for creating the drone show elements. Committee members Kaupin and Marinaccio will work with the vendor regarding proposed formations. Suggestions should be submitted to them including Spartan graphics, etc.

6. Other activities

Chair Pinney shared that the CT Humanities Council has grants available for non-reenactment type events.

7. Proposal for engaging a reenactment group

The Militia group will be voting among their membership in February regarding participation in our event. A possible Saturday, September 26, 2026 date was shared by them.

8. Other

No other business came before the committee.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.