



Wilton Historical Society

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Annual Meeting

June 10, 2025

6 pm

Attendance: Sabeth Albert, Pamela Aris, John Barber, Gini Benin, Bill Brennan, Kathleen Brennan, Steve Cafiero, Greg Chann, Debbie Chann, Kevin Craw, Moira Craw, Ellen Essman, Colleen Fawcett, Mary Anne Mendola Franco, Thomas Gunther, Virginia Gunther, Sally Healy, Dottie Jankowski, Liz Lerch, RB Lerch, Farah Masani, Deborah McFadden, Jack McFadden, Amanda Mitchell, Kelly Morron, Bärli Nugent, Michael Safko, Allison Sanders, Rob Sanders, Sue Sherwood, Daniel Suozzo, Karen Tartell, Ross Tartell, Lee Wilson, Nick Foster, Abbey Dillon, Jenna Garecht, Johnny Cameron, Tom Carlson, Steve Reedy, Daniela Marquez, Nancy Perez, Lee Rossiter, Katy Williams

Presidents Report: Nancy Perez

Nancy Perez welcomed everyone and introduced the staff. Nick Foster, Abbey Dillon, Jenna Garecht, Daniela Marquez, Johnny Cameron and Lee Rossiter. Ms. Perez thanked the Officers and Executive Committee. She said over the past years we have focused on redefining our strategy, while not taking our eyes off of our core mission. We have recruited over 20 new board members over the past five years. We established a stronger voice in the community. We continue to work closely with the schools. We continue to refine and improve the Train Show and Snow Village, which brings in many new faces to the Society. We, as a board, have challenged Nick Foster and the staff to focus on Development. New Trustee Steve Cafiero volunteered to chair the Development

Committee and they have done a terrific job. We had a very successful annual appeal, and together with the team, we reimagined our fundraising events. Taste In Time in March and the Food Truck Festival in June, were both incredibly successful.

Finance Report: Ellen Essman

Ms. Essman presented the report: Seven Months Ended 4/30/25 Operating Results. There is a net cash flow deficit of (\$28,587). She noted that the food truck festival numbers are not in yet. The Bank Checking accounts as of 4/30/25 are \$148,452 with \$66,455 in restricted amounts which leave \$81,997 available for operations. The Vanguard Investment Funds Balance as of 4/30/25 is \$1,930,001.

Nominating: Steve Reedy

Mr. Reedy gave thanks to the trustees who are moving off of the board. Special thanks to Virginia Gunther, Mike Safko, Rob Stack and Katy Williams. To the Trustees who helped the nominating committee to find these new trustees, thank you. To the nominating committee: Mary Anne Mendola Franco, Amanda Mitchell, Sara Sclafani, Katy Williams and Steve Reedy, thank you. We've worked hard to find valuable volunteers for the board of trustees.

Presenting the nominating slate to be elected: Liz Lerch

Officers for the coming year:

President: Mary Anne Mendola Franco

First Vice President: Sally Healy

Treasurer: Ellen Essman continuing

Vice President Building and Grounds: Kevin Crow

Secretary: Sara Sclafani

Gini Benin made a motion to accept the officers on the slate and Nancy Perez seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Trustees 2025/2026 Continuing on Board: Nancy Perez, Gini Benin, Amanda Mitchell, Steve Reedy

New Trustee Candidates: Pamela Aris, John Barber, Tom Carlson, Colleen Fawcett, Cynthia Keating, and Karen Tartell.

Kevin Crow made a motion to approve the slate of new trustees and Steve Cafiero seconded the motion. All approved.

Nancy Perez thanked the departing trustees and officers. She thanked Mary Anne Franco for stepping up this year as first Vice President and participating in all the meetings. We know it will be a smooth transition for her next year as president. Thank you!

Mary Anne Franco introduced herself. She is hopeful and grateful to lead the Wilton Historical Society as President. Her intent is to continue with the fine work Nancy Perez has demonstrated over her time as President.

Director's Report: Nick Foster

Mr. Foster gave thanks to all. He welcomed the six new members of the board. And thanked the departing board members.

Recap of the past year:

We upgraded our HVAC systems. Thank you to the B&G committee. And thank you to Johnny Cameron who has been so enthusiastic and a wonderful asset to the staff. Unfortunately, he is leaving us this summer.

Exhibitions: Puzzle Pieces, funded by a Kiwanis grant. This new exhibition is on the second floor of the Burt Barn. We recently added a mid 20th century sign from Orem's Diner and an instructional voting exhibit from Town Hall.

We had many educational programs, along with Pumpkin Fest and Tavern Night and smaller programs that have been successful.

Taste In Time came back after being introduced last year. This year we raised \$40,000 in sponsors and donors. This was a huge success.

The Food Truck Festival generated about \$9,000 in revenue. It was a great addition. We had a lot of positive feedback.

Thank you to our staff members, especially Abbey Dillon and Jenna Garecht who made these events successful.

Jenna Garecht will be leaving and we will miss her. She is moving on to a larger role with her family's jewelry business. Good luck, Jenna!

Thank you, Lee Rossiter, our controller and Daniela Marquez.

Guest Speaker: Stefon Danczuk and Jane Montanaro, Preservation Connecticut

**Volunteers of the year:
Candiss Cowan and Ellen Goldman.**

Nancy Perez closed the meeting. There will be an upcoming meeting schedule sent out to everyone and the first board meeting will be in September.

Kevin Crow, made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Moira Crow seconded it. All were in favor.

**The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm
Katy Williams recorded the minutes.**

