

**Ed Edelson  
609B Heritage Village  
Southbury, CT 06488**

December 14, 2022

RE: Close out of the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Steering Committee of the Southbury 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
via email

Dear Members of the Steering Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to coordinate the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of When Southbury Said NO to the Nazis. I am proud of the work we did together to raise awareness in the wider-community about this important and unique story.

At the final meeting of the Steering Committee on December 8, 2022 we concluded that we had achieved our original objectives and more. These included:

- Remind the community about our core values and that as neighbors we share pride in a unique story
- Explore how the story has been disseminated around the country
- Offers a chance to explore in more detail the lessons from “Home of the Brave”

Although a final accounting by our Fiscal Sponsor, the Southbury Historical Society, was not available, I am quite comfortable in reporting that due to the generosity of our sponsors, we had a surplus of around \$8,000. There were some questions about the status of about \$2,000 pledged by some sponsors. If these are outstanding, Kevin Bielmeier and I will follow up with those sponsors.

The surplus was anticipated when requests for sponsors began to exceed the expected expenses. A number of ideas were generated on how best to use surplus. These were discussed before making a final recommendation. Also discussed was the future of the excellent web page on the Town website designed by the Southbury Webmaster and the Facebook page created by the Southbury Historical Society.

The following recommendations were made at the meeting:

1. All of the surplus funds should be earmarked for commissioning a public art project to commemorate the 1937 story and this should be placed on a prominent place on Town property, accessible to all. The goal of this art installation would be to honor the historic act of Southbury's residents, creating a permanent link to our past and encouraging viewers to reflect on and apply these lessons to the future.

The Southbury Arts and Culture sub-Committee of the Southbury Economic Development Commission (SEDC) should oversee this project. Kelly Keenan (Chair of the Arts & Culture Subcommittee) will present this to the SEDC at the December meeting for an official vote. Upon approval, the Arts & Culture team will put together a comprehensive scope of work, project timeline, and guidelines for submissions for review by all relevant parties.

Ideally, the call for submissions would be announced no later than the end of February and if feasible, the public work of art would be completed in time for November 2023 as part of the 350th Anniversary of the founding of Southbury.

A decision will be made as to whether the funds for this project should be placed in a Town of Southbury Reserve account (preferred) or with the Southbury Community Trust Fund. Once this is decided, the surplus funds from the Fiscal Sponsor checking account established for this project should be closed out and the funds distributed to the designated organization.

2. The Board of Selectman of Southbury should resolve to make an annual commemoration of the 1937 Story. It does not need to be as elaborate as the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! For example, it could become part of the Veterans Day ceremony, recognizing that the people of Southbury in 1937 acted heroically to stop the “menace” of Nazism.
3. The web page [www.southbury-ct.org/1937](http://www.southbury-ct.org/1937) should be maintained as a repository of information regarding the Southbury story as well as for promoting future events.
4. The Facebook page should be discontinued and any future use of Facebook to highlight activities or other information about the Southbury story should be transferred to the Southbury Economic Development.

Thank you again for the honor of coordinating the anniversary this year,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Edler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ed" being more prominent and the last name "Edler" following in a similar style.

Copy: Southbury Board of Selectmen