

KIM McNEILL

Ms. McNeill, who has lived in Southbury for the past 24 years, is seeking her first term on the Board of Selectmen. Ms. McNeill is serving Southbury as an alternate member of the Southbury Planning Commission, a member of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments Regional Planning Commission, Vice Chair of the Arts & Culture Subcommittee of the Southbury Economic Development Council, and as an alternate member on the Economic Development Commission.

In 2022, Ms. McNeill and SDTC member Kelly Keenan, formed the Arts & Culture Subcommittee (ACS) which operates under the Southbury Economic Development Commission and strives to promote, develop, encourage, and support arts and culture within the community.

In its first year, the ACS has served hundreds of Southbury residents through events and partnerships. The committee is responsible for the monthly Southbury Arts & Culture events calendar, the Maker's Spotlight highlighting Southbury creators, and the 350th quilt and cookbook projects. The committee has collaborated with the 350th Anniversary Committee, Parks and Recreation, Southbury Women's Club, and the Southbury Library. The ACS recently organized the Southbury Chalk Walk and Make Music Day Southbury. They are currently working to identify and foster creative partnerships within the community and encourage economic growth through cultural tourism.

After graduating from Rutgers University with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, Ms. McNeill worked as methods engineer at the facility that made the Hubble Space Telescope mirror. Recognized for her performance, she was placed on a specialized team and selected as team leader. While managing land and space optical projects through fabrication and assembly, Ms. McNeill was able to research, develop, and reduce costs by implementing new processes, using her management skills.

Ms. McNeill transitioned to home-schooling her children where she helped put in place an astronomy class and developed and taught science class, science club, and a history club for the home-schooling community. While doing so, she realized there was no single place to find information about events and activities for families in the Southbury area. Ms. McNeill addressed the need by starting the Southbury Macaroni Kids website that communicated social opportunities to Southbury Families as well as providing reviews of local businesses and events.

In addition to serving the SDTC on the events committee and as Newsletter Editor, she has been working with the parenting group she created for Region 15 to help provide support, information, and resources to parents navigating Section 504 plans and the special education IEP process. To be more effective, Ms. McNeill took seminars and training to understand the related regulatory and legal framework.

Ms. McNeill's daughters graduated from Pomperaug High School and attended Rutgers University. One is starting her sophomore year as a visual art student and the eldest graduated this year with a Bachelor of Science in astrophysics. She will be attending Tufts as a doctoral student for astrophysics in the fall.

“As a Selectman, I will work to foster meaningful, informed dialogue to maintain and improve the quality of life for all Southbury residents, balancing development and fiscal responsibility,” said McNeill. “My training and experience as an engineer, provides strong analytical skills needed on a municipal board, and my creativity will bring fresh ideas to the table.”