

Call to Order

The December 11, 2025, meeting of the Somerset County Film Commission convened at 9:32 a.m. This meeting was held as a virtual meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance**Open Public Meetings Statement**

Chair Daryl Eisenberg, reported that the meeting had been duly advertised in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act as follows:

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et. Seq., adequate notice of this meeting was provided. The date, time and virtual meeting information for this meeting was published in The Star Ledger and the Courier News. The agenda and the virtual meeting information was also posted on the Film Commission website.

ATTENDANCE**Present:**

- Daryl Eisenberg, Chair
- Angela Miele, Vice Chair
- Monica Weeks
- Jonathan Kalafer
- Shanel Robinson, County Commissioner Director
- Colleen Mahr, County Administrator
- Jessica Paolini, Somerset County Director of Economic Development

Public

- No members of the public were present.

DISCUSSION & PRESENTATION: *Staff Liaison Report provided by Jessica Paolini***Staff Liaison Transition:**

- Ben Nanna resigned his position at Somerset County. Administrator Mahr and Economic Development Director Jessica Paolini will serve as County staff liaisons to the Commission. Ben's position will be advertised. County staff are focused on strengthening relationships and re-aligning with key partners like the NJEDA and Choose NJ. Jonathan and Daryl would like to join discussions with NJEDA.

Projects & Inquiries:

- **Project Fontus** (Donovan Productions independent feature film)
 - Interest in scouting Ross Farms (indoor & outdoor spaces) in Bernards Township
 - With support from the town, scouting visit confirmed for 12/10/25

Film Ready (ongoing):

- Montgomery Township Film Ready Ordinance
 - Commissioner Director Robinson is available to attend township meeting on 12/18 to speak about the benefits of the town adopting the Film Ready ordinance.
 - County staff to provide talking points for Commissioner Robinson.

- Vice Chair Angela Miele asked how many Somerset County municipalities are Film Ready. Jessica to confirm with NJEDA Film Ready program and report back, as several towns are in process of becoming Film Ready and towns who were part of the Film Ready pilot must get re-certified due to changes in the process/requirements for becoming Film Ready.
- A suggestion was made that towns could be invited to attend SC Film Commission meetings. A goal for the Commission for 2026 is to re-connect with each of the towns. Many towns are short-staffed, but the state has great resources to help towns become Film Ready

NJ Film Academy (ongoing):

- Vice Chair Angela Miele shared her experience touring RVCC's Workforce Training Center & cosmetology program. A contract with Reel Works is all but signed for hosting training on-site at RVCC. Angela suggested that RVCC could potentially also host training for Paramount.
- Jessica shared update regarding launch of Intro to Hair & Makeup for Film training programs: 2 cohorts – 1 in January; 1 in March 2026. Curriculum aligned to NJ Film Academy. Commissioners invited to visit. Colleen suggested that it is an ideal time to promote the work of the Commission and the opportunities available through RVCC.
- Jessica advised that RVCC learned from industry about the need for special effects training; and is planning to offer courses during the summer 2026.
- The college does have a need for training space, as they are limited to 12 or less participants in cohorts given that the space is in use for other programs/courses.
- Jessica suggested that there is also potential to leverage the concentration of cosmetics manufacturers in Somerset County, potentially for product donations to the program. RVCC is going to provide a list of products that will be used.
- Somerset County staff will follow-up with RVCC to discuss timing and coordination of press release + additional marketing of the program.

Public Notice & New Schedule

- Commission members would like to meet more often in 2026; propose a bimonthly schedule.
- Daryl is traveling on January 22; request to reschedule January meeting. Commissioners agreed to January 8 at 9:30am and County staff will re-notice the meeting + notice 2026 meeting dates on a bimonthly schedule.

Other Business

- Some towns have expressed interest in utilizing stranded/vacant office buildings and other real estate for film productions. Angela suggested adding those sites to the location database.

Public Comments

No members of the public were present.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Commission, Chair Daryl Eisenberg asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Angela Miele and seconded by Jonathan Kalafer. A voice vote was called, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:17am.

Next Meeting Date – January 8, 2026, Re-organization Meeting (virtual)