

SOMERS CULTURAL COMMISSION

Piedmont Hall Meeting Minutes June 8, 2026 7:00 p.m.

Present: Pat Bachetti, Neil Connell, Eileen Fedorowich, Dan Fraro, John Kelleher, Ann Levesque, Dave Marti, Christine Nesorella(chairperson), Sebastian Rider Bezzera, Terri Schmidt, Gail Tishler, Terri Titus

Absent: Yvonne Besse, Giselle Genece

Guest: Ann Fraro, Monica Newcity

Members saluted and pledged our flag. Our new chairperson, Christine opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were presented and with no additions or corrections Sebastian motioned to approve as presented. Gail seconded.

Approved.

Report: Terri presented the Budget to Actual, the Profit/Loss statement and told us our stipend will no longer be available to our commission. She went over the proposed budget for 2027. She also updated the sponsorship campaign and to date \$9650 has been received. Thank you Terri for a very clear and understanding report. Dave motioned to accept and Pat seconded. Approved. During the open discussion Christine presented Ann with flowers and a thank you balloon from her for all her help and assistance in the chairperson transition.

Summer concerts are fast approaching. Sebastian met with Tim over digital accounts of the commission, access to the town website. He will do the email blasts and emails necessary and expand as needed. Possibility also of finding videos of previous concerts in the drop box. Also checking on U Tube. Welcome Sebastian as our new member who brings much knowledge of technology and love of music. Members also discussed the possible expansion of more events(dance, flowers, a tea, plus youth events, etc.) Work with the library and town groups. Sebastian said he would definitely cover that also through sites open for town events.

Food trucks going forward was declined at present after discussion. Dave runs the snack area which is sponsored by the Rotary and funds go to the scholarship program. The "sweet lady" will be invited as offers baked goods. Not sure of her schedule, maybe a few times after Juneteenth. Who doesn't love "sweets"? The commission decided after discussion to stay with the Rotary.

Some concerns going forward regarding parking at the gazebo. CERT helps when they can, but they are not always available. A backup plan is needed for announcer at the concerts. May need money to replace some signs. Suggestion to do a sheet to pass out at the concerts with information of songs being presented and possible history. There is a need to correct the town website access. Sebastian and Ann Fraro will take care of this. He will also reach out to Ginny Lockwood (honorary member who takes care of updating FB) and talk with her.

Christine passed out a sheet to members for signing up for filling jobs needed during concerts and when available to work concerts.

The Windham Concert Band will be parking in the gravel lot in back of the high school as requested. Bob Hall has requested the name of someone who will do lighting at the event as he will be away. The band has also requested the American flag at the event. We will continue to count attendance at concerts. Christine made the charter available to members and ask to become familiar with the document for discussion at the next meeting. There is a question on membership terms.

The art show is coming before long. Committee meeting June 26, 10:00 a.m. Neil explained early updates. Terri S does the entry form and sends to our mailing list in July around the 15th. This year entries are August 21-22, 10-12 p.m. Sebastian said the mailing list is Excel on website. We also send hard copy to those who don't have email. Sebastian will go through drop box and organize. The juror is Ted Fijal from Chicopee, MA.

Some concern about the Holiday Festival this year-will it happen? Commission decided we will continue with the KC Sisters venue even if the festival doesn't happen. We will secure them for 2-4 hours. Dave motioned and Eileen seconded. Approved. Christine will reach out to Ann Kirkpatrick at the Congregational Church for date. Meetings suppose to meet each month and not take a two month break. Some discussion and Terri motioned to meet July 13 at 7:00 and Sebastian seconded. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 with a motion from Terri S and a second from Sebastian. Approved.

Upcoming meetings: July 13 7:00 p.m.

August 10 7:00 p.m.

Sincerely submitted,

Pat Bachetti, secretary

Minutes not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.