

Somers Cultural Commission
Minutes of September 11, 2017 Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM

Present: Ann Levesque, Pat Bachetti, Ginny Lockwood, Dawn Whalen, Donna Lewkowicz

Honorary Members: Neil Connell, Sandy Grabierz

Guests: Dot Cutter

Secretary's Report: Ann noted that Dan Fraro and Anne Murphy had sent the thank you letters to the donors, not herself as reported in the minutes of June 12, 2017. Noting this change, Pat motioned to approve the minutes, Dawn seconded the motion.

Correspondence:

- A) A thank you note was received from the Windham Concert Group. They are scheduled to perform in the 2018 summer concert series.
- B) Phyllis Gwilliam wrote a poem about the summer concert series. Ann sent a thank you card. The poem will be hung in the Piedmont Hall.
- C) The Somers Village Players expressed an interest in performing a reading of the play Southern Comfort at one of the coffeehouses. The Piedmont Coffeehouse line up is already set for the 2017-2018 season. Ann will send a reply.

Treasurer's Report: Dawn presented the Profit & Loss Statements for the fiscal year July 1, 2016- June 30, 2017 (profit of \$1,416) and for the calendar year 2017 (loss of 2,778). Ann inquired as to whether there were enough funds to pay the Art Show and other outstanding expenses. Dawn confirmed that there is enough cash in the bank account to cover the expenses.

- A) Outstanding Bills – Sandy will submit a receipt for approximately \$28 for the purchase of the 25th year anniversary stickers used on the Art Show awards.
- B) A \$617.08 invoice from Somers High School for the use/hold of the auditorium for the Summer Concert Series was received.

Dawn motioned to approve payment of both bills, Ginny seconded the motion.

Old Business:

- A) Summer Concert Series- Ann confirmed that the summer concerts were well attended and that total donations of \$1,528 were received.
- B) Publicity Review- Ann thanked Ginny for the fabulous summer concert publicity. An article promoting the Art Show appeared in the Hartford Courant Local News. Ann encouraged members to distribute Art Show flyers. Ginny reported that the SCC Facebook page continues to be viewed regularly.
- C) 2017 Fund Raising Update- No update was available. Ann recognized the efforts of Dan and Ann for the 2017 fundraising campaign.
- D) Art Show- Neil reported that 97 entries had been received for the Art Show and 86 were accepted. Neil noted that some of the regular artists did not submit entries this year. A sitter

schedule was circulated and Neil requested volunteers to assist with the opening day buffet and clean up.

New Business:

- A) Discussion of Treasurer's position- Ann reported that while Dawn will remain on the Commission, she will be stepping down from the Treasurer position. Ann made a recommendation to reinstate Sandra Grabierz as an active member of the Somers Cultural Commission and to send a request to the Somers Board of Selectmen to make that recommendation for their approval at their next meeting. Once approved by the Board, the Commission will formally appoint Sandy as Treasurer.
- B) Continuation of 2017 Fundraising- Ann discussed promoting individual \$50 contributions during the Piedmont Coffeehouses in an effort to continue fundraising.
- C) Change of Time for Summer Concerts – Due to darkness setting in earlier and for the safety of all attendees, Ann requested the Committee discuss changing the summer concert times from 7-9 PM to 6:30-8:30 for the entire 2018 season. Pat motioned to approve the time change, Ginny seconded the motion.
- D) Food Trucks at Summer Concerts- The Commission discussed adding food trucks to the summer concert venue. Town permits and parking restrictions may be prohibitive to securing consistent vendors. Ann to discuss with Todd Rolland at Town Hall and to reach out to a potential interested party in Stafford Springs.
- E) Change of Venue for Summer Concerts- Ann spoke to the owner of Joanna's about the use of their facilities for summer concerts if the weather is problematic. Ann was given an initial estimate of \$75 per night if the facilities are utilized. There would be no charge if the facility is not used. Ann mentioned that the Commission could be responsible for setting up and cleaning up after the concerts. Ann will obtain additional details and report back to the Commission at the next meeting.
- F) Other Matters- Sandy discussed the fact that the partition connectors have been breaking over the years with the assembling of the partition walls for the photography and art shows. She has researched the price of buying additional connectors and will present it for discussion at the next meeting.

Adjournment: At 8:10 PM, Dawn moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Pat.

Next Meeting: Monday, October 16, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Lewkowicz (in Pat Jones' absence)