

SOMERS CULTURAL COMMISSION Minutes for Monday, October 22, 2018 Special Meeting

Chairperson Ann Levesque called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Pat Bachetti, Dot Cutter, Dan Fraro, Beverly Guimond, Ann Levesque, Donna Lewkowicz, Ginny Lockwood, Gail Tishler, Dawn Whalen, Kathy Worcester
Members Absent: Sandra Grabierz, Pat Jones Guest: Ann Murphy

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Chairperson Ann Levesque presented the minutes for the September 10, 2018 special meeting. One addition was made with Vincent Valela as a guest at the meeting. Member Dan Fraro made a motion to approve the minutes as amended for September 10, 2018 and the motion was seconded by Kathy Worcester. Minutes were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Report was tabled to the next meeting as Treasurer Sandra Grabierz was unable to attend.

OLD BUSINESS:

PUBLICITY:

Publicity for the Piedmont Hall Concerts is in process. The Somers Cultural Commission Facebook page is updated regularly with upcoming events and announcements by Publicity Chairperson Ginny Lockwood. Ginny reported that she has sent information to eight newspapers. In addition, a flyer announcing the concert series has been posted at numerous locations throughout town.

SUMMER CONCERT 2018 WRAP-UP:

Ann Levesque presented the final budget for the 2018 Summer Concert Series. She noted that the amount for alternate venues has been adjusted to reflect the real cost to use the high school auditorium due to inclement weather. Member Dan Fraro made a motion to approve the final budget as presented and the motion was seconded by Ginny Lockwood. The final budget was approved unanimously.

PIEDMONT CONCERT SCHEDULE/BUDGET:

Ann Levesque reported that the Piedmont Hall Concert Series schedule and budget is proceeding on schedule.

FALL ART SHOW 2018:

Ginny Lockwood reported on behalf of Neil Connell and Sandra Grabierz that the Fall Art Show 2018 was a great success with a record number of entries – 102 pieces of art were on display. Numerous visitors remarked about the quality and diversity of the artworks. Several art pieces were sold. The scheduled hours for the art show worked very well. A discussion about space limitations focused on the fact that over 30 art submissions were not hung this year due to hanging space restrictions. An alternate site at the Somers Public Library was proposed. The advantages of this site would be room to hang more art. The primary disadvantage was that the viewing public is used to attending functions at Piedmont Hall and might be deterred by changing the venue. Another concern was potential time restrictions at the Library site. These considerations will be reviewed by the Art Show Sub Committee members at a future meeting.

OPENING PIEDMONT HALL CONCERT – OCTOBER 14, 2018:

Dan Fraro reported that the opening concert at Piedmont Hall on Sunday, October 14, 2018 was a great success thanks to the excellent teamwork of Commission Members. He noted that everyone contributed their talents and time to insure the concert went smoothly. Dan praised Chairperson Ann Levesque for outstanding planning and detailed specific directions which helped members prepare for and run the concert. There were 54 attendees at the show and \$101.80 was donated. Dan gave out a number to each guest entering to make sure the Occupancy Code was followed. Ann stated that she has a clicker to use for future concerts. The next Piedmont Hall Concert is Sunday, November 11, 2018 featuring Tom Callinan performing patriotic music. Ann will send an email confirming details and member attendance for this concert.

SELF-CLOSING DOOR UNIT:

The Automatic self-closing door unit is in place on the main door at Piedmont Hall. It seemed to work well for the first concert. Pat Bachetti raised concerns that the door closes too quickly and does not stay open while bringing in decorations and refreshments. A bungee cord/rope was used to secure the door open as necessary. Ann Levesque will contact Public Works to see if an adjustment can be made to the closing time on the door opener.

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP:

Welcome to Beverly Guimond as the newest member of the Somers Cultural Commission for her first meeting. Ann Levesque invited Beverly to join any of the sub-committees based on her areas of interest. According to the Town Charter, the Commission has 12 members and we now have a full Commission. Ann will be preparing and distributing an updated Membership List as there have been several changes. Ann commented that it is very gratifying to have such a dedicated group of volunteers working tirelessly throughout the year to provide a variety of cultural events for Somers.

NEW BUSINESS:

MEMORIAL DONATION:

Charles Batchelor, the husband of long-time Commission Member JoAnn Batchelor, passed away in September. Members wished to honor his memory with a donation. Pat Bachetti made a motion to donate \$50.00 from the Commission Treasury to the Somers Beautification Committee in memory of Charles Batchelor. The motion was seconded by Dawn Whalen. Dot Cutter amended the motion to change the donation to \$100.00 which was seconded by Ginny Lockwood. The amended motion was approved. A suggestion was made to check with the Town Clerk to determine if it is acceptable to utilize Commission funds for this purpose. Ann Levesque will check with Town Clerk Ann Logan about this matter. It was noted that this action was not intended to set a precedent and that future donations will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW 2019:

Planning for the 2019 Photography Show has begun. At the sub-committee meeting, members reviewed potential juror resumes. Proposed Juror Robert Floyd was selected based on his experience and recommendations. The mailing to potential entrants and a timetable are being developed to prepare for the show. The dates for the Spring 2019 20th Annual Photography Show will begin with an Opening Reception on May 5th with the exhibit running through May 19th. Special features are being included to recognize the 20th Show.

NEW LOCKBOX AT PIEDMONT HALL:

Members were very pleased with the new Lockbox which is easy to open and works smoothly each time.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 12th at 7 p.m. at Piedmont Hall.

Kathy Worcester made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Dot Cutter. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. Murphy, Secretary *Pro Tem*

NOTE: Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.