

SOMERS CULTURAL COMMISSION

Minutes for Monday, June 10, 2019 Meeting

Members in Attendance: Pat Bachetti, Dot Cutter, Dan Fraro, Sandra Grabierz, Beverly Guimond, Ann Levesque, Donna Lewkowicz, Gail Tishler, Kathy Worcester Honorary Members: JoAnn Batchelor, Neil Connell Volunteer Angel: Ann Murphy
Members Absent: Pat Jones, Ginny Lockwood, Dawn Whalen

The Somers Cultural Commission meeting for Monday, June 10, 2019 was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairperson Ann Levesque.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made by Dan Fraro and seconded by Sandra Grabierz to approve the minutes for the May 6, 2019 Special Meeting. The minutes were accepted unanimously. There was no correspondence for this month.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer Sandra Grabierz. Kathy Worcester made a motion to accept the report which was seconded by Pat Bachetti. The Treasurer's Report was accepted by the members unanimously. There were no bills presented for approval.

Sandra Grabierz was commended for her initiative and perseverance in cleaning and organizing the kitchen area of Piedmont Hall. Committee members greatly appreciate her tremendous efforts.

OLD BUSINESS

PUBLICITY UPDATE

Publicity Coordinator Ginny Lockwood was absent. It was noted that the Cultural Commission received good coverage for the Photography Show. Publicity for the upcoming Summer Concerts is underway. Facebook is being utilized weekly.

CULTURAL COMMISSION SCHOLARSHIP

The 2019 scholarship recipient Samantha has submitted her W-9 form and Sandra Grabierz has contacted the Town Treasurer to authorize her scholarship check. At the September meeting, a discussion will be led by Bob Hall reviewing the criteria for the Somers Cultural Commission Scholarship.

SOMERS CONNECTIONS MAGAZINE

The spring issue of the Somers Connections Magazine did mention the Photography Show but members were disappointed with the coverage as it was somewhat limited. Publicity Coordinator Ginny Lockwood will discuss items for submission with Town of Somers Operations Director Kim LaFleur.

2019 PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

Co-chairperson Sandra Grabierz reported that the 2019 Photography Show was a great success. There were a record number of entries and a strong visitor showing. After all budget items were accounted for, the show made a \$200 profit. Much of the savings were because the flyers and other handouts were printed at Town Hall. The juror this year was very exacting and did a great job with excellent comments for the award winners. The Photography Show Subcommittee will meet to discuss suggestions for next year's Photography Show including the possibility of specific awards for black and white photographs. It was noted that the photography committee members ran out of

upcoming event flyers due to their popularity. Ann Levesque will insure that event flyers will be available at all functions. A discussion of the housekeeping for the Piedmont Hall was held. It was noted that the DPW needs to be notified at least four days in advance for any items that need to be cleaned or repaired. Ann shared the contact information for Bruce at DPW who is responsible for scheduling work at Piedmont Hall.

2019 SPONSOR CAMPAIGN

Dan Fraro presented an update on the 2019 Sponsor Campaign. The final date to receive sponsor checks is June 20th. The Program Handout will be distributed on June 27th at the first summer concert. Dan reviewed the contact list with committee members to obtain an update on sponsor contact progress. Committee members committed to contacting potential sponsors. Ann Murphy distributed the list of 2019 sponsors to date and noted that we are currently at \$6,450 in donations including "In Kind" donations.

SCARECROW CONTEST

Donna Lewkowicz reported that the entry form has been completed by the Scarecrow Contest Sub-committee. With the help of Neil Connell, a flyer for the event has also been completed. Scarecrow Contest entries will be due October 3, 2019. A Recognition Ceremony will be held on October 26, 2019 to announce the winners. Promotions for the event will begin in mid-August in order to motivate people who are looking forward to Fall. Individuals, families, and businesses will be encouraged to participate in the Scarecrow Contest.

NEW BUSINESS

CONNECTIONS MAGAZINE SUMMER ISSUE

The Summer issue of the SOMERS CONNECTIONS magazine has a deadline of July 8th with publication projected for August 9th. Commission members hope to have information included on several upcoming events including: Photography Show results, the Art Show, the Scarecrow Contest, and the Piedmont Coffee House. Neil Connell has already visited with Kim LaFleur at Town Hall and provided information on the 27th Annual Photography Show.

2019 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Ann Levesque reported that the Summer Concert Series is all set with contracts signed by all entertainers. New sign toppers are needed in order to notify concertgoers of the new indoor location at Pleasant View Café if concerts are moved due to rain or heat. Donna Lewkowicz made a motion to approve the purchase of new sign toppers which was seconded by Pat Bachetti. Members unanimously approved this purchase.

BUDGET FOR 2019 - 2020 PIEDMONT HALL CONCERT SERIES

Ann Levesque presented the budget for the 2019-2020 Piedmont Hall concert series which reflects all projected expenses. Dot Cutter made a motion to accept the budget which was seconded by Donna Lewkowicz. Members unanimously approved the budget.

METHODIST CHURCH SIGN

Ann Levesque initiated discussion about the old Methodist Church sign which was discovered in the storage portion of Piedmont Hall. Comments revolved around the condition and the suitability of the sign. Neil Connell proposed hanging the large sign in the Restroom Hall portion of the building. Dot Cutter offered to have the history of the building framed and placed on the wall beside the sign.

27th ANNUAL PIEDMONT ART SHOW

Neil Connell reported that the art show entry days will be August 23rd and 24th. Entry forms have been printed and will be mailed out in the beginning of July. The opening reception will be held on September 15th and he requests that all sub-committee members be present at 8:30 a.m. to help with set-up. Show hours will be September 18th through the 29th Wednesdays through Sundays. The Art Show has a new addition this year. Artists will be able to offer a portfolio including prints and originals of their work for sale. The juror is Steve Wilda of Hadley, Massachusetts who is a noted artist with a national reputation. At the September 9th Cultural Commission meeting, the sitter schedule for the Art Show will be completed and members will be trained on how to complete sales of portfolio prints.

COFFEE MAKER

Bob Hall informed the committee that the coffee maker was not adequate for the number of guests at Piedmont Hall events. Sandra Grabierz researched a number of options for 60 cup coffee makers. Committee members felt that that would be too large to handle in the Piedmont Hall kitchen and made a recommendation to purchase a fourth 30 cup coffee maker. This item was tabled to the September 9th Cultural Commission meeting. Sandy will research options and bring recommendations to the September 9th meeting.

FLAG HOLDER ON THE PIEDMONT HALL SIGN

Pat Bachetti noted that the sign holder for the Open Today flag in front of Piedmont Hall is placed so high that most members of the committee cannot comfortably and safely put the flag in the holder. She requested that the flag holder be lowered so it is more accessible for all members. And Levesque will contact DPW to have the sign holder lowered.

2019-2020 PROGRAM HANDOUT

Ann Murphy shared a draft of the 2019-2020 Event Program with committee members. The full color version of the handout with the sponsors listed on the back will be distributed at the June 27th opening summer concert. It was suggested that promotions for the summer concert series begin immediately in order to ensure great attendance at these events.

The next Somers Cultural Commission Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 9th at Piedmont Hall. According to the by-laws, The Commission does not meet in July and August.

Dan Fraro made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Dot Cutter. Members unanimously approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel A. Fraro, Secretary *Pro Tem*

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