

SOMERS CULTURAL COMMISSION
Minutes for Monday, June 8, 2020 Regular Meeting

Members in Attendance via Zoom: Pat Bachetti, Dori Bynack, Dan Fraro, Beverly Guimond, Ann Levesque, Donna Lewkowicz, Gail Tishler, Volunteer Angel: Giovanna Gioscia, Ann Murphy.
Members Absent: Dot Cutter and Ginny Lockwood.

The Somers Cultural Commission regular meeting for Monday, June 8, 2020 was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chairperson Ann Levesque. The regular meetings scheduled for April and May were cancelled due to the Coronavirus.

Ann Levesque introduced Dori Bynack, who was recently approved as a SCC member by the Board of Selectman. Members of the SCC also unanimously approved Dori as a member.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes of the February 10, 2020 regular meeting and the March 2, 2020 special meeting were presented for approval. Pat Bachetti made a motion to approve the February 10, 2020 meeting minutes which was seconded by Gail Tishler. Members unanimously approved the motion. Dan Fraro made a motion to approve the March 2, 2020 meeting minutes which was seconded by Gail Tishler. Members unanimously approved the motion. No correspondence was presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ann Levesque presented the Treasurer's Report as of May 31, 2020. Dan Fraro made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report which was seconded by Pat Bachetti. Members unanimously approved the motion. No bills were presented for approval.

OLD BUSINESS

MAY COFFEEHOUSE and PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

Ann Levesque reported that the May Coffeehouse and the 2020 Photography Show were cancelled due to the Coronavirus.

2020 SCC SCHOLARSHIP

Ann Levesque reported that the recipient of the 2020 SCC scholarship will be announced at the June 11, 2020 Somers High School graduation ceremony. Ginny Lockwood will send an announcement to the local papers.

SPRING CONNECTIONS UPDATE

Ann Levesque discussed the spring Connections magazine.

SHS 2020 BANNER

The SCC thanked Ginny Lockwood for her efforts in purchasing the banner to congratulate the Somers High School Class of 2020. Ginny Lockwood and Neil Connell hung the banner at Piedmont Hall on behalf of the SCC.

NEW BUSINESS

2020 SPONSORSHIP CAMPAIGN

Ann Murphy provided a status of the sponsorship campaign. With the help of Gail Tishler, letters have been e-mailed to past sponsors. Ann and Dan provided a copy of the letter and form to the SCC members for distribution to potential sponsors.

SUMMER CONNECTIONS UPDATE

Ann Levesque mentioned that the deadline for the August 9, 2020 Connections magazine is July 8, 2020. After a discussion by the SCC members as to the SCC contribution, Pat Bachetti suggested that pictures of the 2019 Art Show, Photography Show and Scarecrow Contest be included with the caption, "we look forward to seeing you next year."

2020 ART SHOW

Ann Levesque reported that the 2020 Art Show has been cancelled due to the Coronavirus. Ann also reported that the Treasurer, Sandy Grabierz has submitted her resignation. The SCC members agreed that a vote to make Sandy an Honorary Member of the SCC will be held at the next meeting.

FALL SCARECROW CONTEST

Donna Lewkowicz confirmed that the Scarecrow Contest Committee had unanimously agreed to cancel the contest due to the Coronavirus and the inability to hold a town gathering for the award ceremony. Ann Levesque asked whether the SCC should allow another organization to hold a revised form of the Scarecrow Contest. Donna Lewkowicz, Gail Tishler, Pat Bachetti and Ann Murphy agreed that the preference is to wait until 2021 to resume the contest as held in 2019.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Ann Levesque reported that she has asked the American Legion members to assist her in running the Summer Concerts. The concerts will be held outside and Bud Knorr will advise Ann of the required CDC guidelines that need to be followed by the attendees. Ann has purchased two 4' x 4' signs that will be hung in the center of Somers and Somersville to publicize the concerts.

ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO LISTEN TO THE SUMMER CONCERTS

Ann Murphy did a tremendous amount of research in an effort to offer alternative means to listen to the summer concerts. Ann reported that she had hoped to have the concert broadcast thru an FM transmitter into attendees' car radios however; this would require that the entertainers plug into third party equipment which was not agreeable to the entertainers. Ann also mentioned that the other option was to stream the concert on Facebook live. Ann Levesque agreed to contact Bob Hall and Giovanna Gioscia agreed to reach out to Somers High School to find an individual who may be willing to assist with the streaming.

The next meeting of the Somers Cultural Commission is scheduled for Monday, September 14th. Per the By-laws, the SCC does not meet in July and August.

Ann Levesque adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Lewkowicz, Secretary

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