

SOMERS CULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 9, 2020 VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Chair Ann Levesque, Pat Bachetti, Beverly Guimond, Bob Hall, Gail Tishler, Ann Murphy[proxy for Dan Fraro], Student liaison Giovanna Gioscia.

ABSENT: Member Cindy Rusinowski

CALL TO ORDER: The Somers Cultural Commission meeting was called to order at 7:18 by Chair Ann Levesque.

MEETING MINUTES: The minutes of the October 12, 2020 meeting were presented. Gail Tishler motioned to accept and Beverly Guimond seconded the motion. Approved unanimously. Ann read notes from our concert series followers. Phyllis Gwilliam and Gerry and Rich Berozsky wrote on the wonderful job Ann Levesque and the commission did with the summer/fall concert series which brought such joy to the Somers community. "Perfection, smiles, happiness."

TREASURER'S REPORT: The October 31, 2020 statement was presented by Ann Levesque and discussed. Beverly Guimond motioned to accept and Pat Bachetti seconded. Approved unanimously by members. Ann sends occasional cards to longtime community followers for sickness, etc. She requested approval for stamps. Bob Hall motioned to approve \$11 for a book of stamps. Gail Tishler seconded. Members approved unanimously. FYI the handicapped ramp at the Piedmont Hall has a new Trek ramp and vinyl handrails. A welcome improvement for our attendees to the Coffee House and Photography and Art Shows. Thank you to Bruce from the DPW and his crew. Also the flooring at the gazebo in the park needs attention. Warped wood floors are presenting a danger.

OLD BUSINESS: There is still a need to fill the positions of Treasurer and Publicity Coordinator. Ann requested members to think about it and we'll revisit at our January meeting. Ginny Lockwood has agreed to become an Honorary Member of the commission. Ann updated members on the lack of any article in the most recent "Connections" magazine. She learned that it was an election issue and content was regarding the upcoming elections. Therefore, she couldn't submit an article.

There was much discussion about the Scarecrow Contest and the recent Scarecrow Festival held at Pleasant View. Gail Tishler, a member of the scarecrow committee, spoke about the success of last year's contest and how well it was received by the community. The contest was renewed by the commission after many years of having none in the town. The Festival was successful with crafters, food trucks, music, and a special section for scarecrow judging. Do our own again? Join forces? Turn it over to the new group? Further discussion will early next year.

The additional fall concert series was well received and attended. Do we continue next year? Suggested doing a spring series. Ann Levesque thanked Ann Murphy/Dan Fraro for the great job of livestreaming the concerts this year and the amount of folks who enjoyed watching from their homes.

NEW BUSINESS: There was concern from Bob Hall regarding the scholarship check granted this year. It hadn't been cashed and will be void at the end of November. Unfortunately the winner was going to Maine to school and due to COVID the school was not accepting out of state candidates. Advised to cash check and hold on to it until the college admits students again. Bob will discuss the 2021 scholarship program at the January meeting.

In case of no Photography or Art Shows again next year, Ann suggested we think of other things as replacements: Giovanna and Ann Murphy suggested a "Movie Night" which they had attended. An outside event, could do as a fundraiser also-\$20 per car, blowup movie screen, popular movie choice. Ann Murphy will check with the Southwick Civic Group who hosted it for further information. A Spring Concert Series beginning the end of April through May. Also Cindy Rusinowski offered to Ann the possibility of doing a "Renaissance Fair". Ann will check with her on details and involvement.

Somers Senior Center Winter Festival-enter a display. Pat Bachetti motioned that the commission enter this event and Beverly Guimond seconded. Members approved.

The Food Pantry is in need of items for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday.

Ann Levesque has been posting positive thoughts on our outside community board for the season.

Giovanna is a senior this year in high school and was asked to recommend a couple students to fill her position when she leaves next year. Commission members complimented her on being a great representative and liaison and all the help she has provided.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Somers Cultural Commission will be held on January 11, 2021. Hopefully we will not have to use zoom then but if so we look forward to seeing each other next year.

Beverly Guimond motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. which was seconded by Gail Tishler. All members approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Pat Bachetti, secretary

NOTE: MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.