

SOMERS CULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 12, 2021 VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Chair Ann Levesque, Pat Bachetti, Dan Fraro, Lynn Goss, Bob Hall, Dave Marti, Ann Murphy, Gail Tishler, Student liaison Giovanna Gioscia, pending student liaison junior Isabella Nolasco.

ABSENT: Member Bev Guimond, Gracie Herrity (pending junior liaison), Cindy Rusinowski.

CALL TO ORDER: The Somers Cultural Commission meeting was called to order at 7:02 by Chair Ann Levesque. Ann welcomed and thanked our two new commission members Lynn Goss and Dave Marti and our two new juniors from Somers High School, Isabella and Gracie. Unfortunately Gracie had to work and was unable to attend the meeting. They will be replacing Giovanna who is a senior and graduating in June. She has been a valued representative and received much praise for all her help.

MEETING MINUTES: The minutes of the November 9, 2020 meeting were presented. Gail Tishler motioned to accept and Bob Hall seconded the motion. Approved unanimously. Ann read a letter from one of our concert series followers, Dorothy Palliardi with a \$25 donation in appreciation of the fall concert series. Very grateful to the commission for this addition. Ann will send a thank you. Ann suggested perhaps this donation could kick-start our sponsor program for 2021.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Brian Wissinger, Asst. Finance Director, has been on medical leave and is out for a couple months. The treasurer's reports for January/February will be tabled. We wish him good health again soon. There were no bills at this time.

OLD BUSINESS: There is still a need to fill the positions of Treasurer and Publicity Coordinator. Publicity coordinator is important to get out upcoming news, happenings for spring, etc. It was decided to postpone the photography show in the spring due to the uncertainty of COVID. Will wait for a decision on the fall art show.

Discussed idea for "drive-in" movie night. Ann Murphy has spoken to town of Southwick gentleman, Joe Deedy who was involved in their successful event. She will reach out to him again. Need for a spot to hold it, insurance factor, volunteers (perhaps town groups). Dave Marti suggested perhaps Pleasant View, Rotary Club involvement, also possibility of food trucks. Team effort needed. Boy Scouts assistance and Giovanna suggested National Honor Society as students need community volunteer hours.

Discussion of the Scarecrow Contest. Decision by members to turn it over to the new group that ran the Scarecrow Festival. We could offer our services to assist.

It was a definite yes to hold the spring concert this year. Will start now with sponsors. Ann Murphy suggested we start early May. We would do 5 concerts from May 1-29 (Memorial Day), also to continue with rain date for next day. Time will be 1-3 p.m. Summer concerts will begin June 24 with 7 concerts continuing through August. The time will be 6-8 p.m. Fall concerts will start Labor Day and go until Columbus weekend beginning September 5 and will be 6 concerts. Ann will ask Steve Jacobs if this is doable. Dave Marti will follow up then with the food truck he suggested and also a hot dog truck affiliated with Geissler's.

The Renaissance Fair that was suggested will not happen. Cindy Rusinowski, who has been involved with them, said it wouldn't work due to the closeness of people.

A question arose regarding the floor at the gazebo. DPW is aware. Repair work was done on the handicapped entrance and it looks great. Badly needed and is a wonderful improvement. Concern now at Piedmont Hall and fallen ceiling tiles and leakage. DPW is aware.

NEW BUSINESS: Ann Murphy said that last years sponsorship email format brought a better response in a shorter time frame. Should start in March as will have details by then and cut off mid April at the latest. Discussed continuing variety of types of music. Suggestion of Bruce Devlin's band(local). In the past our price ceiling was \$600. Decided to keep it the same. Happy it will be live streamed again-beneficial to many and a great job by our volunteers from the high school. Suggested commission members continue to spread the word to the community.

Scholarships and the approved application was presented by Bob Hall. It will be available to seniors and the guidance department will collect them and the art work.His next meeting is April 12. He will pick up the art work for viewing by commissioners at Piedmont and we can email Bob our choices. There was a snag with the SS#s so they don't collect them anymore. Bob has student fill out for the Finance department at town hall and the town cuts the check. The only change to the application presented was application to the guidance department by April 9 not April 2. Due to a problem in the past the wording regarding Somers resident has been changed to "and/or". Bob will also take pictures of the portfolios and send to any commissioner who is unable to view them at Piedmont.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Somers Cultural Commission will be held on February 8, 2021. We will meet again on zoom unless a miracle happens.

Bob Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. which was seconded by Dan Fraro. All members approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Pat Bachetti, secretary

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