

Somers Cultural Commission Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2021 VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Chair Ann Levesque, Pat Bachetti, Dan Fraro, Giovanna Gioscia, Lynn Goss, Bev Guimond, Bob Hall, Dave Marti, Ann Murphy, Cindy Rusinowski, Gail Tishler.

CALL TO ORDER: The Somers Cultural Commission meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chair Ann Levesque. Ann welcomed and introduced new member Cindy Rusinowski.

MEETING MINUTES: The minutes of the February 8th meeting were presented and motion to accept by Gail Tishler and seconded by Dave Marti. Approved unanimously. There was no correspondence at this time.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The financial report as of January 31, 2021 was presented. Brian Wissinger, Asst. Finance Dir. is in the process of catching up still. Pat Bachetti motioned to accept and Bev Guimond seconded. So approved. There were no bills for approval at this time. Ann mentioned and kudos from the commission to Giovanna who was honored recently with the North Central Act of Kindness award. The Enfield Shoprite Supermarket, owned by the Miller family, presents this award to a student who portrays outstanding scholarship, leadership, and community kindness in their daily lives. Congrats Giovanna!

OLD BUSINESS: There is still a need for the office of treasurer and publicity coordinator. Bob Hall updated the commissions regarding the scholarship program. The guidance department sends out an email to students as to what's available. Students then download and submit to guidance. This year the art teacher has 3 possible candidates. Thursday, April 1 is the deadline to submit. All is moving forward and Bob will keep the commission updated as needed. Candidate's work will be available online as well as live at Piedmont Hall for members to view live, selection will be made by the commission.

Ann Murphy updated on the scholarship campaign. To date we have 1 platinum, 5 gold level, 6 silver, 3 bronze, as of March 8th there is \$3,050. March 26th is the deadline. Ann will send out sponsor forms to members to download. Reach out to friends, neighbors, etc. Sponsors name does get distributed at all 18 concerts.

The concert list is updated. Contracts continue to come back already. Cindy suggested using our Facebook page, "snippets", or audio of the entertainers. There are 340 followers on Somers Facebook. Dave Marti updated the food truck situation. Could be a problem getting any as they require a certain amount of business and may not be able to guarantee. Chance that Geisslers would let us use their 'hot dog' wagon (maybe just Summer). The Rotary Club will do ice cream novelties (Spring/Summer) as fundraiser for the club. Fall will depend on weather, Todd Roland (DPW) suggested we continue using the same company for the portalets (Clean and well taken care of).

Ann Levesque has an appointment with the Reminder Press regarding publicity. Waiting to hear from North Central for April publication. Possibilities are Journal Inquirer, Go Local, Courant (weekend edition). Ann continues to seek out new avenues. Dave Marti has a press list and will forward to Ann. Use ontime publicity and social media. Ann Murphy will look into the Patch.

There are some items to purchase for upcoming concerts. Signs needed. Ann and Dave will meet and work on needs. Ann will check with Todd Roland (DPW) for any available paint for marking the lawn.

NEW BUSINESS: Giovanna leaves for college in August. Need to vote on 2 new student liaisons. Dan motioned that both attend the April meeting and Gail seconded. So approved. Discussion on next meeting location-hybrid? Possibility of holding at library meeting room. Dave will check. Dan motioned to go hybrid and Dave seconded. So approved.

The Fall art show is being planned with modifications. Neil Connell will once again chair. There will be viewing for 2 weeks and only the winners will attend the reception award ceremony with 1 guest allowed. Commission is happy the art show is on the horizon. Call Neil if interested in being on the committee. Perhaps the new liaisons might take pictures of the art and do a google slide and go forward from there.

There was some "this n' that" presented by Ann Levesque. Eileen Fedorich is a potential commission member. Her letter will be submitted to the selectmen for approval.

Piedmont storm window blew out in the recent storm. Being replaced. The Gene Pitney bench in front of the Piedmont was vandalized recently. Police are working on case. The Gene Pitney Commemorative Group are working with Stafford Stone Company on replacing.

NEXT MEETING: The next Cultural Commission meeting will be held on April 12th. Dan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. and Gail seconded. Approved.

Respectfully submitted

Pat Bachetti, Secretary

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