

Somers Cultural Commission Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2021-7:00 p.m.

Piedmont Hall

Present: Chair Ann Levesque, Pat Bachetti, Dan Fraro, Giovanna Gioscia, Dave Marti, Ann Murphy, Gail Tishler.

Absent: Eileen Fedorowich, Lynn Goss, Bev Guimond. Victoria Oliver resigned from the commission.

Call to order: Ann called the meeting to order at 7:00. Members saluted the flag with the Pledge of Allegiance. Noted today is Nat'l Flag Day.

Approval of Minutes: Ann noted that the mention of Copper Hill Farms being involved in refreshments for the upcoming summer concert series should read that the farm was not the interested party but a friend he knows. Dave Marti motioned for approval of minutes with the correction noted and Gail Tishler seconded. Approved unanimously. There was no correspondence.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was presented by Ann. Pat motioned for approval and Dave seconded. Approved. Ann stated there were no bills at this time.

Old Business: The Art Show is in question this year as the Piedmont roof is in great need of repair. As result the ceiling tiles inside are in bad shape and dangerous. Outside some of the shutters are missing. Appears the roof process will be long. Entry dates for the show is in July and paintings will be coming in. Requesting possibility of replacing tiles inside. Dave motioned to replace tiles, changing curtain over door, and cleaning. If tiles cannot be scheduled, show will have to be cancelled. Gail seconded. Approved unanimously.

Concern for deep cleaning and Ann presented a proposal for this. Suggested washing floors, clean kitchen, bathroom, radiators and vacuum rug. Ann will speak with Todd Roland if this can be done by August 6th.

Commissioners were requested to sign up to sit during the Art Show hours.

The scholarship campaign was most successful Ann Murphy reported as of June 14 the campaign received \$8325 which is an increase over last year. The \$100 level was the most popular. Outstanding response from the community. Ann also presented statistics of the spring concert followers on Facebook. Wonderful statistics and response.

Ann Levesque thanked Gail and her group for doing all the thank you notes to our sponsors. Assisting Gail was Giovanna Gioscia, Lynn Goss, and Gracie Herrity. Many thanks to you all.

Dave and Ann were meeting at 5:30 the next day at the gazebo with the gentleman who will have the food truck at our upcoming series. Todd Roland will join them (re: electricity,

placement, etc.). The gentleman is very excited. Thank you to Dave representing the Rotary Club each week selling ice cream bars, chips, soda, water. He said each week his sales increased. Once the food truck, etc. are finalized will promote on social media and flyer.

Cindy met with Neil Connell regarding Piedmont's history. They reviewed prior research 1822-1989. They worked to update from 1989-2018. They will research and interview seniors who have been involved perhaps the last 50 years. Will reach out for possible newspaper articles 1905-on. Neil is sketching what Piedmont looked like when the theatre was there inside. Many groups over the years used the building-the Ladies Aide Society, church meetings. They are trying to create a timeframe from one life to another, to another, to now. Many lives and uses over the years. The building was physically moved from its original site at the fairgrounds to where it is now. Kudos Cindy and Neil.

Our last spring concert was moved inside due to rain. Ann requested a \$5 donation. Our take that night tripled. Do we ask for a \$5 donation 1 time during the series upcoming? (summer/fall)?

We will possibly use Joanna's for the Coffee House this year if the roof can't be completed. Ann will begin shortly to book the entertainers. Discussion. Plan A-to continue Coffee House here. Plan B-to be held at Joanna's(Jeff Lipton). Tabled at present. Bookings continue-place undecided.

New Business: Discussion of donation to Boy Scouts for fine work they did at the gazebo. A donation from proceeds of one concert be donated to Boy Scouts. Dave motioned, Pat seconded. So approved.

The Gene Pitney bench out in front of Piedmont which was vandalized has been replaced and looks very good.

Cindy suggested a "open night mike" night. Share your music. Maybe April after last Coffee House series. Will consider going forward.

Congrats to our senior Giovanna on her upcoming graduation from high school. Commission presented her with bouquet of roses. Thank you for being such a great liaison from the high school to our commission.

Adjournment: Our next meeting will be September 13th. We will break for 2 months per our by-laws. Dave motioned to adjourn and Pat seconded. Approved. Adjournment at 8:35. See you in September!!

Respectfully submitted, Pat Bachetti, secretary

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