

**Somers Cultural Commission Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2021-7:00 p.m. Piedmont Hall**

Present: Chair Ann Levesque, Pat Bachetti, Dan Fraro, Eileen Fedorowich, Elaine Friedman, Giselle Genece, Lynne Goss, Dave Marti, Ann Murphy, Terri Schmidt, Gail Tishler

Absent: Cindy Rusinowski

Call to Order: Ann called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members saluted the flag with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's Report: Secretary's report approved with one spelling error. Motioned by Elaine and seconded by Bev. Approved unanimously. There was no correspondence.

Treasurer's Report: Brian Wissinger, Asst. Financial Director, noted that the negative item was because our \$2500 stipend hasn't been issued yet. Will be late September. He explained not to worry as we are not-for-profit. We held 18 concerts this year as opposed to only our summer series last year. Motion to accept the report by Elaine and seconded by Pat.

Approved.

Bills for payment were presented. Ann noted that our donation from Dave is at zero now. He kindly donated two signs but a question on the remainder signs at the Gazebo-donated/cost?

Motion to pay these bills by Dan and seconded by Terri. Approved. **Motion to pay the Art Show bills** by Elaine and seconded by Terri. Approved.

Repairs to the Piedmont roof have been completed and so appreciated the time frame. Also the handicapped ramp on the side of the building replaced with railing. Cost: \$18,000 for roof/\$15,000 ramp. Ann is going to mention to town about putting a light at the ramp.

Sponsorship Campaign has been most successful. Ann Murphy reported we have 9 new sponsors. Total to date is \$9,900. We are thankful and blessed with the donations from our sponsors.

We didn't have much luck with getting a food truck this year for the concerts. Dave has had his van with refreshments which he faithfully mans each concert. Also attendees bring their picnics or snacks with them. We will continue doing what we are doing as food trucks need a guarantee and difficult to do this on a regular basis. Thank you Dave for your dedication (and he always brings corn hole for the kids and adults!]

Gail has been doing the thank you notes for our sponsors yearly. Ann suggested having a corresponding secretary for the thank you, get well, etc. expressions. Gail stated she would be happy to do this.

Cindy was not present to give her report on the history of Piedmont.

The summer concerts have had great attendance and such positive feedback. The online viewing has been remarkable and well received.

There is still a need for a publicity chairman. Currently Ann is using The Patch and there is a \$15 fee for reaching out beyond our area. We are active on Face Book as well. Has been difficult getting it in the local papers. Decision to keep using Patch.

A donation to the Boy Scout Troop #387 for work done at the Gazebo was motioned by Pat and seconded by Terri. A \$300 donation was unanimously approved. Suggested we invite to our meeting and present. Ann will follow up.

The fall concerts are doing very well-good attendance and weather cooperating. The community appreciative of the outside event. What about "washout" weekends? Jeff Lipton

offered Joanna's except for the last Saturday of the month. Agreement of commission to continue the three concert series for next year.

New Business: Concern for the upcoming Coffee House. Do we close/continue? Find another place? Limit the number? Require a vaccine card? Reservations? Do just January through April? The decision to close or go forward will be further discussed at the October meeting.

Adjournment: The next meeting will be October 11. Eileen motioned to adjourn and Gail seconded. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m..

Respectfully submitted, Pat Bachetti, secretary

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