**SOMERS CULTURAL COMMISSION ZOOM MEETING MINUTES**

**January 10, 2022 7:00 p.m. Piedmont Hall**

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

**Absent: Bev Guimond, Gracie Herrity, Isabella Nolasco, Cindy Rusinowski**

**Call To Order: Ann opened the zoom meeting at 7:00 p.m. with commissioners pledging our flag.**

**Secretary’s Report: There were 2 corrections of last names misspelled. Mark Levesque and Michelle Pellissier. Terri motioned to accept the corrected minutes and Dan seconded. Approved.**

**Correspondence- Ann had provided copies of two letters received. Maureen Parsell, Dir. of Recreation and Leisure Services, acknowledged the commission for their involvement and in sponsoring the “Shoreline Ringers” at the recent “Holiday Festival and Tree Lighting”. Also a special letter from Dave Marti thanking the commission for their support over the years as he is stepping back from DG Graphics in the coming months. The commission thanked Dave for all his involvement and assistance and wished him well going forward.**

**Treasurer’s Report: The report was presented with no questions or discussion. Ann noted that with the COVID spike we had to cancel our first Coffee House entertainer, Dee Riley. This check was not reflected on the profit/loss and will show -$400 next time. Elaine motioned to accept the report and Gail seconded. Approved.**

**Bills for Approval- 1 bill was presented for two retirement cards. $50 each was allowed out of our treasury for two gifts. Approved by Brian. Elaine motioned to pay for the two cards and Pat seconded. Approved.**

**Cindy was absent to report on the history. She is relocating to another town and Ann will reach out to her to retrieve the historical data from her. The commission would like to make her an honorary member. To be discussed at a later date. Dan suggested Yvonne Bessy, former librarian(retired) to perhaps fill her position. She is a member of the Historical Society. Dan will reach out to her.**

**The Coffee House was discussed and Bob suggested that with COVID spikes not a good idea-wait till March. Elaine motioned and Dan seconded. Approved. We will go month to month, March/April and see how it goes.**

**Spring Concerts: Mother’s Day there will be no concert that weekend. Concerts begin May 14 for the first one and continue and end with the last one on June 4.**

**Summer Concerts: schedule will begin with the opening date June 16, 23, 28, 30.**

**July 7, 14, 21 and conclude with our final concert on August 4.**

**Gail motioned to have Juneteenth be our opening concert. Terri seconded. Approved.**

**A possibility of having a military band for our final summer concert on June 30 prior to the Fourth of July holiday. Ann is checking into.**

**After a two week break our Fall Concert series will begin. September 3, 10, 24,- October 1, 8.**

**Question of where to go if the weather is bad. After discussion this was tabled at present.**

**Suggestion of readdressing our Mission Statement. Supporting different cultures in art, music, dance. Objective would be to celebrate all cultures. Suggestion of perhaps also something in front of Piedmont in celebration of each cultures holiday. Geiselle and Terri will work on a draft to present at the next meeting.**

**Ann Murphy reported on the Sponsorship Campaign. Suggested the letter be ready by mid- February and perhaps list the entertainers (without dates) to be included. The start of the campaign will be May 1 to send out the letters. Chair Ann will work to line up groups in time for the letter.**

**Suggested that perhaps this year’s Nov/Dec Coffee House be cancelled due to holiday time and folks involvement in the season. The recent December Holiday Festival will again be held this year and may be expanded two days or one full day. Busy time. Discussion will continue.**

**Will look for more diverse items for display at Piedmont during that time. Dave offered item he has for Kwanza.**

**Family Movie was tabled as Isabella was absent with report from the high school. Was decided it would be much better held outside rather than indoors.**

**Bob Hall gave an overview of the scholarship program for new members and also the application used by students. Approval of the document goes to the guidance department. Students have until April 1 to complete. Bob will bring portfolios to Piedmont April 11 for viewing by commissioners. Once viewed they will send individual vote to Bob via email. Bob will also upload info to commissioners. Cards are given to students on Award Day. Form to be filled out goes to the town with their SS# for approval of cutting the check. Our treasurer will**

**notify the town of our winner.**

**Pat and Gail agreed to co-chair the upcoming Photography Show in April/May. Bob Hall will help with labels, etc. (thank you Bob). Discussion going forward.**

**Next meeting will be February 14, 7:00 p.m. September meeting date tabled till next meeting.**

**Respectfully submitted, Pat Bachetti, secretary**

**Minutes not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.**