

Somers Cultural Commission Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2022 7:00 p.m. Piedmont Hall

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

Absent: Bob Hall, Gracie Herrity, Dave Marti, Isabella Nolasco

Call to Order: Members pledged our flag and Ann called the meeting to order at 7:03.

Secretary's Report: One correction was made regarding reimbursement to Ann. Originally read \$58.00, corrected at \$58.50. Dan motioned to accept the corrected minutes and Ann seconded. Approved.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence at this time.

Treasurer's Report: The report was presented with no questions or discussion. Elaine that an addition needed to be added as with our added Coffee House the prior night, we collected \$100.75 in donations which now would be to the total amount in the report. Pat motioned to accept the adjusted report, Elaine seconded. Approved.

Bills for Approval: Ann requested a fee for additional publicity through the "Patch" this month for our Coffee House. With COVID two of our performances were cancelled and we needed to promote our opening evening. She also requested doing this again for our final show in April. The fee each time is \$48. The commission thought it was a good idea and Eileen motioned to approve and Dan seconded. Approved.

Old Business: There was great feedback and attendance at our Coffee House and regarding our entertainers March 13. Folks were happy to be back and enjoyed the evening. Our next Coffee House of April 10 will follow the same protocol with 50 attendees, reservations, no food or beverage. The only change will be making masks optional. We look forward to our final event and hope that next year will be back to our regular schedule.

Our outdoor concerts will begin on May 14 with our spring series running through till June 4. Our summer series will run from June 16 through August 4 and our fall series from Sept. 3 through Oct. 8. September 17 which would normally be a concert will be dark due to the local Four Town Fair weekend. A suggestion was made to look into an individual sound system to be able to better hear Ann and the individual announcer. Using the artists sound microphone is not always clear or loud enough for the outside as is different for their music. Ann will check this out and consult with Bob Hall also.

The Sponsorship Program was presented by Ann Murphy and has begun and with only a couple weeks in, there has been \$1450 received from sponsors. A great start. Suggested we look at last years list and perhaps reach out to anyone we know or perhaps neighbors, friends, new businesses. Promote advertising also as names appear on the programs plus special sponsors appear on a large banner/sign at Gazebo. Also "Diamond" sponsors get to pick a concert to and be announced and promoted. Thank you Ann and Dan for always doing a great job with this campaign.

New Business: Pat reported on the upcoming Photography Show. She, Gail and Neil have been meeting and plans are coming together well. The show will run from May 8-22 with the kick-off reception and awards to be held on May 8 from 1-3 p.m.. Entries will be accepted on April 29 and 30 and Sue Fenton out of Newington, CT has agreed to juror our show. Ann Murphy said she would put it on Facebook. Thank you Ann. The committee requested a \$2000 budget to cover awards, supplies, refreshments, juror's fee. Also a request for a mileage allowance of \$40. Elaine motioned to approve request for \$2040 and Terri seconded. So approved. Pat requested members bring their calendars next meeting for sitter's schedule.

Our Juneteenth Celebration was discussed. It will be our first summer concert. We have approval to host our first Juneteenth concert this year and are looking forward to a fun celebration to kick off the summer.

Giselle presented the mission statement she and Terri worked on. Ann also read Dave Marti's option. After some discussion among members there was a change to Giselle and Terri's. The sentence starting with "acknowledging" will be deleted and will read:

"Acknowledging the universality of music and the arts in bringing people together."

It was agreed that members would think about those presented for any changes or additions and to be further discussed at our next meeting.

Next meeting: April 11, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Pat Bachetti, secretary**

Minutes not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.