

Somers Cultural Commission Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2023 7:00 p.m. Piedmont Hall

Present: Pat Bachetti, Eileen Fedorowich, Giselle Genece, Lynne Goss, Bob Hall, Ann Levesque(chairperson), Terri Schmidt, Gail Tishler

Absent: Dan Fraro, Elaine Friedman, Dave Marti, Ann Murphy

Audience: Tim Simoes

Call to Order: Ann returned from her surgery and opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Members saluted the flag. Ann thanked members for their support and cards during her recuperation and so happy to be back.

Secretary's Report: Report presented with no changes or corrections. Eileen motioned to accept as read and Gail seconded. Approved.

Correspondence: Pat read a letter from Elaine stating her resignation as treasurer effective immediately. She stated she enjoyed her time on the commission and comradery she shared with members and wished the group much luck. Members were sorry she is resigning but thanked her for her time and good work.

Treasurer's Report: Report was presented by chair Ann. Terri motioned to accept and Eileen seconded. Approved.

Bills for approval: Bills were presented and Terri motioned for payment and Pat seconded. Approved.

Terri hosted the Holiday Festival at Piedmont this year and reported on the festivities. The attendance was great, the vintage holiday singers dressed in the old fashioned styles were wonderful. The gingerbread houses, wreaths, tree decorated Piedmont beautifully for the festival and events. Terri suggested that perhaps next year: serve hot cider as many were cold, more seating, perhaps earlier notice for the gingerbread competition, maybe near Kibbe there could be cut-outs of elves, snowman, etc. for kids/folks to have pictures taken. Many thanks Terri for hosting a fun time.

Our first Coffee House was well attended and the entertainment was excellent and greatly appreciated by attendees. We collected \$166 in donations from our guests. A New Year's toast of sparkling cider was celebrated by everyone there. Our next Coffee House will be February 12, 1-3 p.m. All seemed to appreciate the time change.

Outdoor concerts are being booked and we already have a great selection and variety.

Bob presented the upcoming Visual Arts scholarship program for this year. All has to be completed and presented to the guidance department by April 7. Bob will bring the portfolios to a commission meeting to be evaluated. Commission votes and awards either two \$500 scholarships or one \$1000 scholarship. A w-2 and all info goes to the town to cut check which is presented at graduation to the winner(s). Bob suggested we invite Neil Connell to judge as he chairs our yearly art show. Terri motioned to accept the scholarship information and process, Pat seconded. Approved. Thank you Bob.

We are still in need of a videographer. We have the camera, just need someone to do it and stream. Ann has a contact she will reach out to and see about a possible lead. Tim, who was in the audience, asked to speak and said he is familiar with the process and could reach out to our former videographer to inquire.

Ann shared that we received news of a bequest from a former supporter and attendee of our Coffee House, Dori Bynack. More news will be coming. Dori loved music and was well known by many. So appreciated from this fine lady. RIP Dori.

A notice received from a harpist, who offered her talent to our commission. Some discussion and perhaps consider for our Art Show in the fall. Tabled for present.

Giselle stated she recently met the new superintendent of schools Dr. Samuel Galloway at a meeting and was very impressed with him and his background. He will begin his position April 1. Welcome Dr. Galloway.

Tim Simoes is requesting membership on our commission. Spoke briefly about his background and after his remarks Pat motioned for approval, Terri seconded. Approved. Welcome Tim. Thank you for your interest.

The next meeting will be held February 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Bachetti, secretary

Minutes not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.