

**Somers Cultural Commission Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2023 7:00 P.M. Piedmont Hall**

Present: Pat Bachetti, Yvonne Besse, Neil Connell, Eileen Fedorowich, Dan Fraro, Ann Levesque(chairperson), Dave Marti, Ann Murphy, Terri Schmidt, Lianette Sheehan, Tim Simones, Gail Tishler

Absent: Giselle Genece, Lynne Goss, Bob Hall

Call to Order: Chairperson Ann called the meeting to order at 7:05. Committee members saluted our flag.

Secretary's: The report was presented with no corrections or additions discussed. Terri motioned to accept as presented and Dave seconded. Approved.

Correspondence: No correspondence at this time. Pat mentioned thank you will be sent to those related to the Photography Show and also at the conclusion of our sponsorship campaign to those numerous sponsors this year.

Treasurer's Report: Terri presented the profit/loss statement as of April 30, 2023 and also a "to date" as of April 25, 2023 commission concerts. Included were expense of Coffee House and upcoming Spring concert contracts. Also income of sponsorships and other expenses. After no discussion but appreciation of new form, Dave motioned to accept and Gail seconded. Approved.

Bills for approval: A bill was presented by Ann. Gail motioned to pay and Pat seconded. Approved.

The Holiday Festival to be held on December 9 was updated by Ann and Dave. They had met with Jenifer Casey of the " KC Sisters" and agreed on a \$1500 contract for that date. Will be held at the Somers Congregational Church from 2:30-4:00 and last 2 ½ hours. This will be prior to the tree lighting at 4:00. Terri motioned that we allocate \$1500 for the KC Sisters and Yvonne seconded. Approved.

Ann Murphy updated the commission on the sponsorship campaign and noted it has been extended through this Wednesday. As of today we have a total of \$13,200(including the bequest). \$8800 without the bequest. She is waiting for a few more sponsors. An excellent response this year. Encouraged members to continue to make a last minute outreach.

Neil updated the Photography Show for the members. There are 114 photos this year. Neil will be redoing the entry form mailing list as there were several returned and new addresses added this year. Tim has kindly agreed to video the show and post on the website. Neil spoke of the Art Show and need for budget approval as entries begin August 25/26 with entries accepted from 9-12. The show's opening reception is September 17, 1-3 p.m.

The show will run September 21-24 and September 28- October 1, 10-2 p.m. He is requesting a budget of \$3000 covering the juror, awards, refreshments, and odds and ends. Dave motioned to approve the request and Tim seconded. Approved.

Ann gave a report on the concert contracts and stated that there were two missing but coming. All others are here and set-14 total. She noted she will continue to put notices of concerts on "Patch" but not to outlying areas. Also she is requesting once again this year assistance from CRT to help with parking. Tim mentioned he would not be available to video the first concert in June but that Lynne is checking with one other person who might be

available. Also need access to video website. Tim will check. Noted the commission previously voted to pay Tim \$50 per event for his service.

Ann spoke with Dr. Nero who is involved with the Boy Scout Troup in town. Possibility of them painting Piedmont front porch floor and railing. In discussion-update coming. Dave motioned we allocate \$500 for paint and supplies. Tim seconded. Approved.

Tim suggested we might consider having signs made for concerts stating "Lot Full" and "Handicap/Drop Off Only". Ann will follow up.

Lynne Goss was not present and "RISE" was tabled until next meeting.

Still concerns for concert rain dates venue. Where? Church possibility?

Yvonne Besse who is one of our new commission members is the Town Historian and so much knowledge of our town. She stated that the Piedmont Hall was built in 1832. She and Neil would work together continuing the town's history going forward. Tim motioned that she now become "our" historian working with Neil and Pat seconded. Approved. Thank you Yvonne and Neil in continuing this important role. Both names will be added to our committee names.

Dave has agreed to receive notices from the commission (ex. Photo Show, Art Show, etc.) to be put on the town website and updated when needed. Thank you Dave.

Pat requested we look at getting new letters/numbers for our outside board. Dave wondered if they were the same size as the Town Hall's board. Cost-306 numbers/letters \$275. Ann will check with Todd Roland.

The wreaths for the Holiday Festival will be artificial this year. Vickie Woronecki, who is volunteering her time, is decorating them. She has 30 completed with the goal of 50. They will be sponsored by community members as a fundraiser for the festival and donated to community families for the holiday. Thank you Vickie-you continue to be the best! Eileen has donated a couple large bins for storage if possible to store until the event.

Terri Schmidt has graciously offered her home once again for our Summer Gathering.

Commission very appreciative and decided on September 9 following our final fall concert.

Eileen motioned to accept her invitation and Tim seconded. Approved. Thank you Terri.

Suggestion for local children's author, Renatta Bowers("Freida"), to perhaps do a reading and book signing at Piedmont during wreath and gingerbread display December 9 during the Holiday Festival. Ann will check with Maureen.

Motion to Adjourn: Tim motioned to adjourn and seconded by Yvonne.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20.

The next meeting will be held on June 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Bachetti, secretary

Minutes not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.

