

**Somers Cultural Commission      Meeting Minutes**  
**June 12, 2023              7:00 p.m.              Piedmont Hall**

**Present:** Pat Bachetti, Yvonne Besse, Neil Connell, Dan Fraro, Lynne Goss, Ann Levesque(chairperson), Dave Marti, Ann Murphy, Terri Schmidt, Tim Simones, Gail Tishler

**Absent:** Eileen Fedorowich , Giselle Genece, Bob Hall, Lianette Sheehan

**Guests:** Pam Johnson, Don, Kathy Devlin, Melissa

**Call to Order:** Ann called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Ann introduced our guests from “RISE UP CT” for a short presentation. They are a newly formed group with their mission of helping to make a social impact within our community- helping to meet certain needs of residents through assisting single moms, helping with employment, providing certain skills. They are looking for volunteers and perhaps the commission’s assistance or provide an opportunity for them to promote awareness of their mission.

**Secretary’s Report:** Minutes were presented with a few corrections. Our upcoming holiday concert with the KC Sisters at the Somers Congregational Church will be 1 ½ hours not 2 ½. The spelling of CERT has been corrected. The commission did not vote to pay \$50 to Tim for videotaping our concerts. He volunteered his time until we can hire someone part time to cover when he is not available. Thank you Tim for your kindness. Our picnic gathering at Terri’s home is not after our final concert but after our second fall concert. Renata Bowers name did not have 2 t’s in it. With no further changes Terri motioned to accept minutes as corrected. Dave seconded. Approved.

**Correspondence:** The commission received a nice note from our recent entertainer Ethel Lee thanking us for having her ensemble. She and her group enjoyed it very much. Thank you notes were sent to Sue Fenton our Photography Show juror and Debbie Farnham for her kind loan of plants and dish gardens for our show. We will be sending thank you notes to all our concert sponsors. Terri and Lynne will assist with notes.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Financial report was presented. Terri discussed the Profit/Loss statement as of May 31, 2023 and also a detailed report on our concert series. We did well with our Spring series and the sponsorships were excellent. Following little discussion Lynne motioned to accept as presented and Tim seconded. Approved.

**Bills for Approval:** Ann presented a bill from Patch. Tim motioned for payment and Dave seconded. Approved.

Ann and Dave recently attended an event featuring the KC Sisters who are scheduled to entertain at our Holiday Festival in December. Stated they were so enjoyable and talented. Ann is preparing to send out their contract. Looking forward to having them.

Ann Murphy reported on our sponsorship campaign which is now closed. As of June 12 we did remarkably well and sponsorships were outstanding. So thankful to all our sponsors this year for their support and to Ann for another great job.

Neil reported on our recent Photography Show which was very successful and record entries this year. Going forward Terri will do the entries by email next year which will cut down on the paper entry form and mailing. He spoke of the Art Show coming with the opening reception on September 17. Entries will be accepted August 25-26 and the show will run from

September 21-October 1. Also, a reminder of Neil's Art Exhibit which is at the Suffield Library until June 29.

The Spring concerts ran into some weather issues. Dee Riley was held the next day due to rain, Ethel Lee's was fine but "Elvis" was held at Joanna's with threat of rain and quite a cool day.

We have received our letters for the outside sign. Thank you to Todd for helping make this possible. Were badly needed.

The Boy Scout project is on track. Scout master Dr. Nero said the group would be happy to paint our front porch at Piedmont-we just needed to provide the paint. Also asking to paint the bench on porch. Ann will speak to him. Thank you scouts-so appreciated.

Vickie Woronecki continues to decorate wreaths for the Holiday Festival. Volunteers her time and is requesting possible storage as she completes them. Also, if members could be on the lookout for wreath donations (Goodwill, at home). She is getting low on the plain wreaths to decorate. So grateful for her kindness.

Renata Bowers continues to write wonderful books. There is art work from her books on the library walls in town. Can we help promote her books? Maybe a reading at our Coffee House program coordinating with something else?

New Business: Tim, who is involved with CERT, suggested we need more signs for our outdoor concerts. Six of "No Parking" for the Fire Lane, "Lot Full", and "Moved To". Tim will bring in a proposal. He requested the Fire Lane approval of \$100 for these signs. Dave motioned and Yvonne seconded. Approved.

Sponsor promos at the outdoor concerts were discussed. Perhaps "RISE" when they get some dates-maybe others to be discussed at a later date.

Somers Congregational Church as a back up venue when rain date/air quality arises was discussed. Ann and Dave have been in touch with Ann Kirkpatrick. Could have in sanctuary which holds up to 250 people and our summer concerts are on Thursday evenings when there is nothing scheduled at the church. We can begin this summer series now. Lynne motioned that after the Juneteenth concert we begin using the church as a rain date venue as first choice. Dave seconded. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20.

The next meeting will be held on September 11, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Bachetti, secretary

Minutes not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.

Happy summer everyone. Stay safe and well. See you in the fall!!