

**Somers Cultural Commission    Piedmont Hall  
Meeting Minutes    September 11, 2023    7:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Pat Bachetti, Yvonne Besse, Neil Connell, Eileen Fedorowich, Giselle Genece, Lynne Goss, Ann Levesque(chairperson), Dave Marti, Terri Schmidt, Tim Simone, Gail Tishler

**Absent:** Dan Fraro, Ann Fraro, Bob Hall, Lianette Sheehan

**Call to Order:** Members saluted our flag and Ann called the meeting to order at 7:02.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes were presented with no additions or corrections. Motioned by Terri to accept as read and Gail Seconded. Approved.

No correspondence received. Ann suggested we send condolences today to Ann Fraro who lost her brother, Brian Murphy on 9/11. He was 45 years old. Pat will send our thoughts to Ann and her family.

**Treasurer's Report:** Terri presented a detailed and wonderful report and proposed budget . She went over everything and members were appreciative of her explanations. Motion to accept report and proposed budget by Tim and seconded by Dave. Approved.

She also suggested that the 10% amount of donations to the church where concerts are held in bad weather be changed to a minimum of \$25 given. Little discussion and Dave motioned for this change and Tim seconded. Approved.

There were no bills for approval at this time.

Ann updated the members on the upcoming Holiday Festival December 9. The contract for K C Sisters was presented. Ann noted that it was unsure of how many in group-may be 4 or 5 singers coming. Everyone is looking forward to having them perform.

Neil reported on the upcoming Art Show with the reception on Sunday, September 17 1-3 followed by the show from Sept 21-Oct 1. Many wonderful pieces of art and a great variety of subjects. Pat thanked members for volunteering to sit during the show hours. Very appreciated. Tim has volunteered to video the show and also help Neil hang our big sign. Many thanks Tim.

Ann gave an update on our summer concerts. We had a total of 8 concerts of which 2 were held inside at the Congregational Church due to inclement weather. Concerts were well received with positive attendance. Ann has made a "People's Choice" survey to hand out to concert goers to evaluate each performing group. She encouraged members to do one also. Tim was approached by the Enfield Community TV to see if they could broadcast our series free of charge going forward. He will follow up with them. We would have to add a release by entertainers to each contract if agreed upon. Tim motioned to allow Enfield Community TV to broadcast the concerts going forward as accepted by the performers. Giselle seconded. So moved.

Ann reported we have received new letters for our outside sign. They are very nice and the old ones we have now separated and only use when needed.

Regarding Piedmont porch being painted by the local boy scout troop will have to wait until spring due to the busy schedule with the Piedmont activities.

The December Festival of Wreaths has been growing every week. There are 35 already completed with more to come for the festival. We are grateful to our friend Vicki Woronecki who has been volunteering to make the wreaths. They are beautiful and will make many families happy for the holidays. Kudos to you Vicki-a special lady.

Renata Bowers will not be able to do a reading at Piedmont as she reads "The Night Before Christmas" to the children at the senior center at that time.

The concerts at the Congregational Church as a backup venue was tabled at this time.

Gail spoke about the town-wide survey for public opinion about federal money available.

Folks can suggest choices where this money is needed or could be used. Sheets can be dropped off at the library, senior center or mailed in.

The commission decided to host the Coffee House once again next year-Jan, Feb and March 2024.

Giselle spoke about the Somers Advocates for Social Justice group in town and how they have some money they would like to donate to something in town. She suggested a program called "Hidden Women", a true story of a black woman and a wonderful presentation. She suggested perhaps this could be performed along with the concert on Juneteenth or the second Sunday in February at our Coffee House. Members thought it was a great idea. Giselle will look into promoting. More information on "Hidden Women" is available at Hidden Women.org

Thank you Giselle.

Unfortunately at one of our concerts there was an inappropriate remark made in a diverse setting and was very hurtful to one party there. After some discussion among our members we learned this cannot be tolerated and we need to speak up in a setting such as this wherever it happens and tell the person it's not acceptable or tolerated. Our apologies to the party who was subjected to this unfortunate happening.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:25.

The next meeting will be held on October 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Sincerely

Pat Bachetti, secretary

Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.

HAPPY FALL YA' ALL!!