

SOMERS CULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Piedmont Hall November 13, 2023 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Dan Fraro, Ann Fraro, Dave Marti, Lianette Sheehan

Call to Order: Members saluted our flag and Ann called the meeting to order at 7:01.

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

Correspondence: A letter was received from Hallie Watt the recipient of the SCC Visual Arts Scholarship. She was most grateful and appreciative of the award. She is enjoying her Lesley University journey and will be majoring in design/art. Also, a note received from Pat thanking the commission members for their kindness and thoughts during her recuperation. So appreciated. Thank you all.

Treasurer's Report: Terri presented the profit/loss statement as of October 31, 2023. She also printed an update of the expense/revenue 2024 budget- self explanatory with no questions. Thank you Terri for a great report. There were no bills for approval at this time.

Terri spoke of the upcoming Holiday Festival. Piedmont Hall will be hosting the "Wreaths for Warmth" and is already displaying many of the wreaths graciously decorated by Vickie Woronecki. Folks can sponsor a wreath for any monetary amount with the proceeds going to the Somers Emergency Heating Fund. The wreaths will then be donated to families in our community. Vickie will have a donation box at Piedmont for monetary sponsorships or checks will also be accepted made out to the Town of Somers with the notation "Wreaths for Warmth". The commission members voted to sponsor \$100 as motioned by Tim and seconded by Eileen.

Commission members will be hosting the evening's event of wreaths and gingerbread houses whose theme this year will be "Somers Local Landmarks". Folks may drop off houses at Piedmont. Refreshments will be served-homemade cookies and hot cider. Terri will send out an email for members wishing to host and/or donations of cookies/cider.

Tim will live stream the KC Sisters concert at the Congregational Church from 2-3:30. He has offered to send out an email blast announcement regarding "Wreaths for Warmth", gingerbread houses, the KC Sisters concert. Thank you Tim.

The local boy scout troop is still interested in the Piedmont porch project. They were hoping for a nice weekend before the weather changes. If not, then it will happen in the spring. The committee chair for this project, Christopher Huestis, will keep Ann informed.

Some folks are uncomfortable with hosting the concerts in the church during inclement weather. Suggestion of looking into the Somers town hall downstairs. Terri will look into.

Giselle presented her findings of the People's Choice Concert Evaluations. She tallied all the bands. Elvis, Windham Band, Acoustic Rick all "super". Fairly even across the board with remaining. Great report Giselle and a lot of time tallying. Thank you.

Eileen offered to assist Ann with viewing future entertainers and/or visit a showcase. Giselle suggested maybe members select as a team. Ann will have an agenda item in January regarding coming together to select the 2024 concert series. Windham Band already booked.

Suggestion to limit concerts or to none in the fall (busy season), 3 in the spring. In the summer

series add one more at the end (extra week) and do a kids concert (August 8th, Thursday). Also suggested to limit costs we could listen to cassettes or CDs. Yvonne suggested Marie at the library as a good resource for family center (elementary/middle school ages). The Coffee House and January's concert with Nekita Waller plus 2 other musical people wants \$100 up front in case of weather. Also requesting another date if cancelled. Terri suggested we pay \$100 in advance and if cancelled there is no other date.

The 2024 meeting schedule presented one change. The October 15 meeting is changed to October 7 (first Monday). Tim motioned, Terri seconded. Approved.

The scholarships with Bob Hall will be added to our January meeting.

We regret that Lianette Sheehan, our newest member, is stepping down due to scheduling and outside commitments. The commission appreciated her positive input and ideas. We wish you the very best Lianette. A note of thanks will be sent to her for her valued involvement.

Our Black History event will be held on February 11 at 1:00 p.m. Giselle will reach out to the artist to check about a break in her program. Commission will help setting up. Refreshments discussion next meeting. There is a need for advertisement. Tim will send an email blast a couple weeks prior. Giselle will check about flyers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

The next meeting is January 8, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Bachetti, secretary

Minutes not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.

WISHING EVERYONE A BEAUTIFUL HOLIDAY SEASON AND MANY BLESSINGS IN THE NEW YEAR!