

SOMERS CULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Piedmont Hall January 8, 2024 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Eileen Fedorowich, Dan Fraro. Ann Fraro.

Call to Order: Members saluted our flag and Ann called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were presented with no additions or corrections.

Motioned by Tim to accept and seconded by Yvonne. Approved.

No correspondence at this time.

Treasurer's Report: Terri presented a thorough report of the profit/loss statement and an updated 2023/2024 budget report. No discussion or questions. Thank you Terri for such a clear, detailed report.

Old Business: The November 11 meeting date was changed to November 4 with Veteran's Day on November 11.

The Holiday Festival was a huge success reported by Terri. Many community folks and families in attendance with great feedback. Terri also noted the wonderful response to the "Wreaths for Warmth". An outstanding response to the wreaths fundraiser-very successful thanks to the remarkable work and creativity done by Vickie Woronecki who decorated and donated all the wreaths for this project. So many thanks from so many.

We are shy a commission member at present and if anyone knows someone who would like to become a member please let Ann know.

Ann saw scout master Dr. Nero recently and he said the troop has the paint and The young men and now just needs the nice weather. "See you in the Spring".

Item of backup venues for concerts this year. After some discussion it was decided we would use the Congregational Church first, the Town Hall auditorium second and Piedmont Hall third as our options. Dave motioned and Giselle seconded. Approved.

Our first Coffee House of the season begins this Sunday the 14th 1-3 p.m. with Nekita Waller. Dave motioned to increase the budget from \$50 to \$150 to cover costs of our three Coffee Houses this year. Giselle seconded. Approved. Giselle motioned we provide coffee, tea, hot chocolate and pitchers of water. Also serve cookies. Dave seconded. Approved.

New Business: February 11 we will host "The Hidden Woman" at the Congregational Church. Giselle's group will be hosting and sponsoring the

program. Members will assist with setup. Gisell will check on urns, set up schedule and flyers. There will be no break during the presentation. Tim will help with the publicity and do an email “blast” also to the Patch for the community calendar. Ann will do the Reminder. Tim will also “live stream” the program. Thank you Tim.

Topic of hosting a fashion show for “Claudette’s Closet” in the spring. Members felt this might be a better project for the Somers Women’s Club.

Bob presented paperwork and schedule for the high school Visual Arts Scholarship. Once the selection process is complete he will bring the portfolios and essays to our April 8 meeting. Viewing and voting will occur at that time. Also noted as of 1-8-202 meeting the scholarship award will be \$1500. Tim motioned and Terri seconded. Approved. The student selected will also be encouraged to submit the winning piece of art in our Piedmont Art Show in September 2024.

Tim spoke of the TV Technology he is working on with Cox Cable to put our events on their calendar and Enfield Community Channel 15. Going forward all contracts for entertainers must show their awareness and willingness to agree to streaming and this.

We have 3 spring concerts coming this year-May 18, 25 and June 1. Members agreed to drop June 13 and allow a two week break from the spring set. Giselle motioned the first summer concert June 20 will be the Juneteenth Concert kicking off our summer series. Tim seconded. Approved. August 8 will be our last summer concert with a total of 8 summer concerts. If we can’t get the Steel Drum Band for Juneteenth we will try to get the New Orleans Band, “Who Dat”. Ann will put together a list of entertainers with dates for the next meeting to discuss choices. Other suggestions were: Ethel Lee, Cobblestone, Cherry Pie, Just Jennie Trio, Al Fenton Band, Flamingos, Acoustic Rick, Dee Reilly/ Jimmy Mazz(alternate).

The Photography Show is May 5-19. Opening reception is May 5, 1-3 p.m.

Entries drop off April 19/20, 9-12

Art Show is September 15-29. Opening reception is September 15, 1-3 p.m.

Entries drop off is August 23/24, 9-12.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25. Next meeting February 12 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Bachetti, secretary

Minutes not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.

