

Somers Cultural Commission Minutes

January 9, 2012

Present: Linda Abbott, Nancy Barbosa, Neil Connell, Bob Hall, Rich Mazur, Dee Moak, Linda Percoski, John Reeves, Judy Reeves, Janice Steinmetz, Ruthie Sutter & Kathy Worcester.

Secretary's Report: The minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer report was accepted as submitted.

Correspondence: No new correspondence was received.

Subcommittee Reports:

Summer Concerts (Rich Mazur)

- Jimmy Mazz has been booked for July 19, 2012
- The Spectacles and Spin Sisters have disbanded so they are no longer available.
- Contacted the Windham Concert Band
- Will brainstorm for new groups. We can go to ctband.com to hear other bands that are available.
- Discussed some local bands that may be an option.
- It was recommended that we use different performers than the Piedmont Percolator.
- Discussed adding an additional concert in June. A budget will be prepared reflecting the additional concert.

Piedmont Percolator (John & Judy Reeves)

- Had very successful events in December and January. Had many new attendees at the January Percolator.
- Judy Reeves presented handouts from the Stafford Arts Commission Coffee House.
- Judy recommended paying \$200 per performer beginning next season. The current payment barely covers their travel costs.
- A budget will be developed for the upcoming year reflecting the proposed increase in payments to the performers.
- Motion: To purchase two riser sections at a cost of \$1000 or less. Motion approved Bob Hall will research vendors for the best price.
- Need to add the Piedmont Percolator Calendar, photos and Cultural Commission Facebook page to the Cultural Commission web site. Bob Hall will contact the web site administrator and request changes.

Old Business

Town Band: No new discussion

New Business

Town Financial Guidelines:

- The guidelines will be incorporated into planning for events.

- Commission members will be more involved in all events to support to the requirements.

Cultural Commission By-Laws:

- The CC has not been meeting in July due to lack of a quorum. Discussed the number of meetings and if adding a meeting in December instead of July would add value. It was agreed that a December meeting would not add value. The members made a motion to change the number of meetings to 9. Motion passed. Linda will follow up with the Town to confirm that this is not an issue.
- Discussed meeting attendance. The group recommended that we have a 7 meeting per year requirement.

Honorary Membership:

- Motion: Establish an “Honorary Membership” category. The concept of having an Honorary Membership category was passed by majority vote.
- Objectives:
 - Recognize members that have given significant support to the Cultural Commission but cannot continue to attend meetings.
 - Provide a pool of supporters for special events
- Criteria
 - Candidates elected by majority vote of the Commission.
 - May attend CC meetings to provide input.
 - Will not be able to vote on Commission business.
 - May work on special projects or events if desired.
 - Linda will follow up with the Town to determine if this must be added to our by-laws.

Committee Approach to Projects:

- Motion: Establish a committee approach to projects. Motion passed by majority vote.
- This will provide back-up for key events
- Each committee will need to develop a timeline, objectives, list of activities and contacts.
- Committees will make recommendations to the CC. The CC will make final decisions regarding expenditures, award amounts, print content, etc., for all committees.
- Linda requested that each committee submit a budget for 2012.

Donation to Somers Congregational Church:

- Commission members from the church recommended that we not send a donation at this time because the needs of the Church have not been defined.
- It was recommended that we send a letter from the commission saying that we are willing to provide support and to contact us if they have any needs. Linda will draft a letter.

Next meeting: **February 13, 2012 @ 7 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Hall