

Somers Cultural Commission
Minutes of November 9, 2015 Meeting

Meeting called to order 7:01PM

Present: , J. Reed, J. Batchelor, K. Hutton, J. Hutton, K. Worcester, P. Jones, A. Levesque, G. Lockwood, D. Fraro, B. Hall, S. Grabierz,

Guests: A. Murphy, D. Whalen, P. Bachetti

Secretary's Report: Reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed and accepted.

NOTE: any receipts being submitted to the Town on behalf of the Cultural Commission should only reflect Cultural Commission purchases,

Correspondence: A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved by the Commission to remove the correspondence notation posted in the October minutes.

New Business.

Piedmont Coffeehouse:

The November 8 performance went very well, with good attendance. A suggestion was made to contact DPW to see if some of the chairs at Kibbe-Fuller could be brought over to replace the folding metal chairs. S. Grabierz contacted DPW and the chairs at Kibbe Fuller cannot be removed. They must stay there for meetings that occur in that facility. A. Levesque did ask for some assistance at the Dec performance including refreshment donations. K. Hutton will coordinate publicity for the event and will include G. Lockwood in the process. G. Lockwood will assume some of the publicity responsibilities as of Jan. 2016. A. Levesque also noted that one of the entertainers scheduled for 2016 had passed away. She will be reviewing the entertainer list to find a replacement.

It was noted that the Coffeehouse and Sponsor banners were not displayed. S. Grabierz will coordinate getting them up before the December coffeehouse event.

Photography Show:

At the sub committee meeting there was some discussion about separating "classical" vs "digitally enhanced" photographs and offering separate awards. J. Batchelor did discuss with the judges and they felt most pictures are in some way digitally enhanced, therefore they recommended not making that distinction. Commission members agreed. There was also a suggestion to have 3 judges. After some discussion the group agreed to stay with 2 judges.

Pictures will be dropped off April 16 April 17

Judging & hanging of pictures week of April 25

Show May 1 – May 15

There was some discussion about increasing the entry fee for the show to increase prize money awards. Committee agreed that we should wait another year and assess show results given we won't be

distinguishing “classical” vs “digitally enhanced” pictures. A. Levesque made a motion to increase prize money without increasing entry fees. Second by S. Grabierz. Committee unanimously agreed.

Neil Connell has approached the Commission to use Piedmont Hall for the Connecticut River Valley Artists Show. He will coordinate date with J. Batchelor and the Photography Show schedule. Sandy Wakeen will attend the Commissions January meeting. She would like to discuss a proposal to use Piedmont Hall for an event. No additional details were available at this time.

Review of By-Laws:

A proposal to amend the By-Laws to reference BOS requirements to be a Cultural Commission Board Member was deferred to a later meeting.

Election of Officers:

J. Reed was unanimously elected Cultural Commission Chair. Vice Chair was not seen as needed at this time. Given J. Reed is currently the Treasurer she will continue to assume these responsibilities.

Treasurer appointment was deferred to January meeting when new Commission members are appointed.

S. Grabierz agreed to continue as Secretary.

J. Reed will submit potential new Commission Member names to the Board of Selectmen.

Additional item: The message board outside of Piedmont Hall is in desperate need of repair. Town Hall has agreed to assist in replacing the message board. Thank you.

Adjournment: K. Hutton moved that we adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by J. Reed.. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Next Meeting: January 11, 2016 7:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted
Sandra Grabierz