

Chapter 22

CULTURAL COMMISSION

[HISTORY: Adopted 10-4-1993 by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Somers, effective 10-4-1993. Amendments noted where applicable.]

~ 22-1. Establishment; purpose.

There is hereby established a Cultural Commission to fund, advise, originate, coordinate and encourage, within the Town of Somers, participation in and promotion, development, acceptance and appreciation of artistic and cultural activities, which shall include, but are not limited to, music, theater, dance, painting, sculpture, architecture, literature, film and allied arts and crafts, and to this end the Cultural Commission may join or contract with any entities, including consultants, private patrons, individual artists and ensembles and with institutions and grant organizations, local sponsoring organizations and professional organizations. The Commission, by majority vote, shall determine what events are deemed to be cultural.

~ 22-2. Membership; appointment; terms of office; vacancies; removal; officers; salaries and compensation.

A. The Commission shall consist of twelve (12) electors or residents of the Town of Somers, who shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen, and one (1) ex officio member, who shall be the First Selectman, and who shall vacate their positions on ceasing to be electors or residents of the Town of Somers.

B. The twelve (12) Commission members appointed may, but are not required to, include among its membership the following:

(1) Representatives of private organizations in the Town of Somers.

(2) Representatives of the Library Board, the Board of Education, the Recreation Commission and the general public.

C. As soon as is convenient after the Commission is established, the Board of Selectmen shall appoint four (4) members of said Commission who shall serve for one (1) year, four (4) members who shall serve for two (2) years and four (4) members who shall serve for three (3) years.

D. All vacancies shall be filled by the Board of Selectmen for the unexpired term of the vacating member. Despite the expiration of his/her term, a member shall continue to hold office until replaced or reappointed by the Board of Selectmen.

E. Any member may be removed for cause by the Board of Selectmen, in accordance with the Town Charter, or for failing to attend three (3) consecutive meetings.

F. The Commission shall annually elect its Chairperson and other officers as it shall from time to time deem appropriate.

G. No action by the Commission, except as herein otherwise specifically stated, shall be valid unless authorized by a majority of its members present and voting, provided that there is a quorum.

H. Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

~ 22-3. Meetings; quorum.

The Commission shall have the authority to adopt rules and regulations for the conduct of its meetings, to be filed with the Town Clerk. A majority of its members shall constitute a quorum, and the Commission shall hold regular meetings once a month, open to the public, except when in executive session according to Section 1-18 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended (the Freedom of Information Act).¹ Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson at any time or upon written request to the Chairperson by any four (4) members.

~ 22-4. Powers and duties.

The Commission shall maintain a survey of public and private facilities engaged in cultural activities within the town and determine the needs of the citizens and the methods by which existing resources may be utilized or new resources developed to fulfill these needs. It shall also maintain a calendar of events which it shall deem cultural and disseminate such to the public and local media and coordinate and organize an annual fall fest.

~ 22-5. Cultural Coordinator.

A. The Commission shall have the authority to employ a Cultural Coordinator and other personnel it deems appropriate, subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen and the availability of funds.

B. The Cultural Coordinator shall be responsible for implementing the actions of the Commission and discharging any directives of it.

~ 22-6. Requests for appropriations.

While it is intended that the Commission shall be self-supporting, the Commission shall have the authority to request the legislative body of the Town of Somers to make appropriations to cover the expenses of the Commission, including reasonable funds for official stationery, clerical services, office space, telephone and postage.

¹ Editor's Note: The reference to Section 1-18 of the Connecticut General Statutes should be to Section 1-18a.

~ 22-7. Contracts; administration.

The Commission may make, subject to the Town Charter and applicable town law and within the scope of its budget, all contracts necessary to carry out the objectives and purposes of the Commission, and the Commission shall have such powers and perform such other duties as may be necessary for proper administration of the affairs of the Commission.

~ 22-8. Budget; expenditure of funds.

A. Prior to the preparation of the annual town budget, the Commission shall submit a detailed budget of its anticipated revenues and expenses to the Board of Finance with approval of the Board of Selectmen.

B. The Commission shall have the authority to expend any funds appropriated by the Board of Finance in the discharge of its duties. Within the limitations of state law, the Commission shall have the authority to receive and expend private, public, federal and state grants, subject to appropriate financial controls established by the Board of Finance and overseen by the Treasurer. It shall also have the authority to expend any funds which are donated, devised or bequeathed, for cultural purposes, subject to the same financial control procedures.

~ 22-9. Records; minutes.

The Commission shall maintain accurate records of its activities and of all meetings, in minutes, which shall be on file with the Town Clerk and open to the public.