

**Cultural Commission Meeting Minutes
Piedmont Hall May 12, 2025 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Pat Bachetti, Eileen Fedorowich, Dan Fraro, Lynne Goss, John Kelleher, Ann Levesque(chairperson), Dave Marti, Terri Schmidt, Tim Simones, Gail Tishler, Terri Titus

Absent: Yvonne Besse, Giselle Genece

Call to Order: Ann called the meeting to order at 7:05. Members pledged and saluted our flag.

Secretary's Report: The April minutes were presented. There were no additions or corrections. Tim motioned to accept and Eileen seconded. Approved.

There was no correspondence at this time.

Treasurer's Report: There was no profit/loss statement at this time.

No bills were presented for payment.

Terri Schmidt spoke of the scholarship we awarded and the school was requesting a representative to present the award on June 4 in the morning. Ann will present the award at that time to this year's recipient.

Discussion of terms for commission members was brought forward by Terri also. At present the terms for members are two years according to our by-laws. It appears to be a bit confusing as 1/3 of members have served 1 year, 1/2 have served 2 years and the rest have served 4 or more years. Tim spoke with Kim at the town hall and was suggested to reach out to our town attorney to draft an ordinance regarding this issue. Members thought 4 years would be the best. Dave motioned to pursue a 4- year standard renewal time and work with the town on an ordinance. Dan seconded. There was one opposition. Approved. Ann spoke about the sponsorship campaign and the continued need to reach out to businesses, neighbors, community. Dave suggested perhaps starting our campaign earlier. Maybe pre-sell prior to summer.

Pat reported that all is going well with the Photography Show and a very nice opening reception with good attendance was held recently. She also thanked the members for their continued volunteer involvement in sitting during our show. Greatly appreciated.

Eileen also mentioned eliminating Thursdays for our Photography/Art Shows as lower attendance. The art committee will discuss at a future meeting.

Tim updated the licensing status. Everything is in place thank you to Maureen and ready to go. Contracts are in and we can continue to videotape going forward.

The summer concert contracts are moving along Tim said. 6 out of 9 contracts are finalized for the series.

Terri Titus reported that nothing has surfaced for her regarding the 2026 Black History Month. Giselle was absent and there was no report. Ann is attending the Charter Oak Cultural Organization's presentation in Hartford to hear the gentleman she has been in touch with and following, who is a story teller on black history. He is presenting in French and English. More updates to come at the June meeting.

Ann spoke with Todd Roland regarding the AC for the Piedmont Hall. Difficult with an old building and expensive. Terri drafted a letter which she presented to the members listing various things that need attention as this historic building is deteriorating. This is a beautiful building with extensive history and continues to be used by many in our community. The commission's hope is to address some of these important needs to keep it as a building to be proud of especially as it sits on our main street.

Ann mentioned the Coffee House in January 2026 and said she saw Jose Paulo recently and asked if he would consider coming then and entertaining. He can't consider or discuss dates until August. Please reach out to him then. She is also asking members for other possible requests. We have an Irish group booked for March.

Discussion on leadership going forward was presented. Ann is stepping back somewhat and suggesting co-chairs. Tim agreed to assist. Vote will hold until next meeting as charter states any votes such as this are slated for the month of June. A suggestion was made that perhaps we put together a booklet with job descriptions, committees, mission statement. Regarding committees, like sponsorship committee maybe ask the EDC for business listings or request from the assessor.

Dave motioned to adjourn the meeting. Gail seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Bachetti, secretary

Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.