

Somers Cultural Commission
Meeting Minutes Piedmont Hall November 3, 2025
7:00 p.m.

Present: Pat Bazzetti, Eileen Fedorovich, Dan Fraro, Giselle Genece, John Kelleher, Ann Levesque, Terri Schmidt, Tim Simoes, Gail Tishler.

Absent: Yvonne Besse, Dave Marti, Terri Titus

Call to Order: Tim called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Members pledged and saluted our flag.

Secretary's Report: One correction noted with date change. With no other corrections or additions, Tim motioned to accept and Terri seconded. Approved. Ann mentioned this is our final meeting of 2025.

Per by-laws there is no December meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Terri presented the commission budget, year 2024 to present, expenses, revenue and budget for each year. Also the proposed budget for 2026. Thank you Terri for such a clear presentation.

There were no bills for payment.

Old Business:

The 2026 Coffee House is on the horizon. José Paulo and Duo are confirmed and awaiting signed contract. He will appear on January 11. Dr. Raouf MAMA will present storytelling of his childhood life experiences, he presents on February 8 and is confirmed and awaiting signed contract. March 8 will host Pierce Campbell and the Irish Extras. They are also confirmed. All contracts have been sent.

Tim recently attended the W. Hartford Showcase. He reported it was a little different from the usual platform. It targeted senior centers and smaller groups. Rates \$100-\$200. Best duo was "Elderly Brothers". Basically coffee house venue the highest was José Paulo with "Mass Confusion" (\$300-\$500). Some duos - most individuals. Couple sopranos (good vocalists). Not for summer concert series - too small.

New Business:

The RC Sisters will be appearing at the Somers Congregational church during the Holiday Festival, 2-3:30 p.m. We received the \$1300 signed contract. Need for good publicity. Tim will do an email blast, the Patch, also the Somers Neighborhood FB. He will cover Ellington/Enfield who have FB page to share information.

Suggested \$5 donation. Members thought not necessary as it might have a decrease in crowd attendance.

Still the discussion where to hold the summer concerts in inclement weather. High school mentioned - big venue, smaller crowds, costly. Pleasant View, Piedmont if air conditioning approved. Tabled until January meeting.

Need to lock in summer concert entertainers. Dates:

June 19 (Nineteenth), 26 July 2 (Windham Band) 9,
16, 23, 30

August 6, 13. - Food trucks possibility (cookies something different. Giselle will touch base with a lady and also Spanish food truck (Ethnic). Report at January meeting.

Todd Roland submitted to Board of Selectmen a bid for air conditioning at Piedmont Hall. Has letter with proposal.

The 2026 Calendar was presented and Tim motioned and Gail seconded. Approved.

Vetting Venue - discussed but Tim said they won't come to the Piedmont - you need to go to their place and listen to them.

We have some T-shirts from our sale which Ann suggested we do a "give away" at our first summer concert. They can go home with a free T-shirt.

It was suggested members wear their T-shirts at concerts worked. They will now be our "uniforms".

Meeting adjourned at 9:45. Tim motioned and Giselle seconded.
Next meeting will be January 12, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Bachetti, Secretary

Minutes not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.

Happy, healthy holidays everyone!