

SOMERS CULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Piedmont Hall April 13, 2026 7:00 p.m.



Present: Pat Bachetti, Yvonne Besse, Neil Connell, Eileen Fedorowich, Dan Fraro, Giselle Genece, Lynne Goss, Bob Hall, John Kelleher, Ann Levesque, Terri Schmidt, Tim Simoes, Gail Tishler

Absent: Dave Marti, Terry Titus

Guests: Ann Fraro, Christine Nesoralla, Sebastian Rider-Bezzera

Members pledged and saluted our flag. Tim called the meeting to order at 7:03. He introduced Christine and Sebastian who are interested in becoming members.

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

No correspondence at this time.

Treasurer's Report: Terri presented the Profit/Loss Statement as of February 2026. Also presented was the budget to actual and a list of sponsorships to date. No questions or discussion.

There were no bills for approval at this time.

Tim spoke for a moment about our livestreaming suggesting we cancel it as he has been tracking how many hits it receives for functions and the tally is very low. Members agreed to stop for the time being. Perhaps at a future date or a special event we can try it again.

Ann reported on the food truck schedule and permit. Giselle spoke with Laurie regarding the Fellowship Truck and they are on schedule and will be at our first concert. Chris offered to help Giselle with updates on other considered food trucks.

Ann reported on the K of C pavilion and the agreement with John Pelligrino of using the pavilion during inclement weather only and we must give him a 24-hour notice. Becoming more difficult for alternative venue if weather is rainy or unusually hot.

The art event at Worthington Vineyard was updated by Neil who spoke with Karen Murdoch, owner. He reported after speaking with a number of artists locally and surrounding towns there was not a positive response. He suggested she reach out to the CT Outside Painting Group going forward. He also gave an update on the Photography Show. Entries were being accepted on April 17-18 from 10-12. There has been good publicity locally and surrounding towns. Frank

Zaremba will be the juror this year. May 3 is the opening reception from 1-3. The Art Show will receive entries August 28-29 and the show runs from September 20- October 4.

Ann spoke on the sponsorship campaign. We are doing okay but compared to last year we are \$2000 off. To date the sponsorship is \$8150. She is going to visit former sponsors to check with them.

Ann suggested perhaps for the 250th Anniversary maybe have a home/business contest in town of decorating in celebration of America's special year complete with awards.

Bob Hall spoke on the commission's scholarship program and explained to the guests about the process. He was dismayed and disappointed that after all these years there are no applicants this year to date. Applicants in the past have been so talented and brought such good presentations of their work. Thank you, Bob for all your work with the school with this program.

Tim presented his resignation to the members and will now take it to town hall to Kim Lafleur. He will work with who will be picking up his place with the Art and Photo show videos, his files for concerts, mail account-mass mailing (passwords, etc. on stick). He will suggest musical showcases for Lynne, Eileen and John to visit for previewing bands and also possibilities for the Coffee House winter program. Sebastian offered to join the group to pursue other bands. Ann Fraro mentioned to keep the Irish Group we have already due to their popularity. A suggestion of recent fiddler at the senior center who was excellent. Question of the KC Sisters coming in December for the Holiday Festival. With Maureen leaving will it happen? Who will take it over?

Todd Roland relayed that 1.2 million for the Piedmont restoration. Windows, roofing, siding. Company he is talking with deals in historical buildings. Piedmont is on the National Registry.

Giselle will call Ann on the 4th of July signs for the Windham Band concert. Ann motioned to adjourn and Terri seconded. Adjourned at 7:57.

Sincerely Pat Bachetti, secretary

Minutes not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.