

*Somersworth 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission*

One Government Way Somersworth, NH 03878

Minutes of 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission of 28 January 2018

***Present:***

Jenne Holmes, Chair	Kathy Guptill
Rick Michaud, Vice-Chair	Eric Mommsen
Gerri Canon	David Nagy
Dina Gagnon	Pius Murray, Secretary

***Agenda and Meeting***

***I. Call to Order:*** At 4:02 pm by the Chair.

***II. Approval of Minutes:*** Approval of the minutes of the December 2017 minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

### III. Old Business:

#### A. Update on band concert, Saturday, 11 August 2018 noon to 9:00 pm

The Chair turned the discussion over to Mr. Nagy who is coordinating this event. Mr. Nagy mentioned that the Somersworth Athletic Association has recently received 501c3 status which should help for fundraising as donations are now legally tax deductible.

Mr. Nagy asked the Chair if the high school field had been reserved because he had been told that it hadn't been; the Chair responded that the paperwork had been filed and that a confirmation had been received. Mr. Nagy confirmed four bands have signed on to appear: Acoustic Radio, Bad Breath, Ovations, and American Made. Ticket price has not been set; the Chair asked if it could set soon as the early the price ticket is known, the earlier it can be advertised. Mr. Nagy confirmed with Ms. Gagnon that tents would be available from the Children's Festival. The only potential outstanding costs to determine would be the police detail, public toilets and dumpsters. Mr. Nagy said he would investigate if any officers could volunteer their time; for public toilets, Ms. Guptill recommended contacting Ronnie's Johnnies since the city has been establishing a relationship with the company perhaps it could offer a good price. When the ticket prices are known, Ms. Gagnon recommended selling them online at Eventbrite to keep track of pre-registrations.

#### B. Official kickoff on Sunday, 18 February 2018 at the Somersworth Historical Museum

The Chair asked Mr. Kennedy how plans were for the formal opening of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at the Somersworth Historical Museum. Festivities at the Museum will start at 12:30 pm. Mr. Kennedy said everything was in place; light refreshments and a cake would be available. The Chair stated that she has been in contact with the churches in the city asking them to ring their bells at noontime, and allowing them to ring them for as long as they wished.

The Chair has asked the Mayor to read the inaugural address of the Somersworth's very first mayor. Additional proclamations will be prepared and possibly read.

The time capsule book and box will be available at this and every event throughout the year for residents to write their memories or reflections of what Somersworth means to them; the time capsule will be sealed on 31 December 2018 and re-opened in seventy-five years on the city's bicentennial anniversary in 2093.

#### C. Ornaments

The Chair asked Ms. Guptill to report on the state of celebratory ornaments for the city's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Ms. Guptill showed the Commission models prepared by the artist prior to production; the Commission was very impressed with the intricate artwork. Ms. Guptill said that the ornaments, which are 2" circular made of pewter, should be ready for sale in several weeks, certainly by the time of the Mayor's Inaugural Celebration on 17 February 2018 at which the Commission has been invited to sell items and offer a silent auction. The first order will consist of between 25-50 ornaments; each ornament will cost the Commission \$8.00; Ms. Guptill recommended selling the items for between \$15-\$20 each. The Commission leaned toward \$15.00. Each ornament will be attached with a blue ribbon, at Mr. Mommsen's request. Selling ornaments online through the Commission's Facebook page will require a link to Ms. Guptill's store webpage.

#### D. Fireworks

The Chair reported that fireworks would require purchase of \$3,000 worth to offer a public display. The owner of the fireworks company will offer the Commission an excellent deal by which it will pay only a fraction of the cost. Since the Mayor is not available on 11 August 2018, the Chair asked the Commission if she could work with the Children's Festival to see if the 125<sup>th</sup> Commission could sponsor the fireworks at the Children's International Festival the third weekend of June; the Commission agreed that this would be a good idea.

#### E. Cultural Commission

The Chair reported contacting Marty Dumont, Chair of the Cultural Commission, and the Head of the Culinary Program at the high school to plan the Food Tasting. Issues to be work out include menu (it must reflect items in the curriculum), location, and date. The Chair would like a larger location than the high school which holds only about 100 people; this could necessitate transporting the food from the school to another location. The Chair stated that sometime in May 2018 would be most appropriate; during May the high school chorus has its annual performance so perhaps something could be worked out for it to make an appearance at a Cultural Food Tasting.

#### F. Historical Plaques

Mr. Mommsen asked about having an historical day for the installation of plaques; Ms. Guptill stated that if the Commission knew the date she would arrange for two vans to be available to transport people around. Mr. Mommsen asked if the Commission's budget could afford ordering the plaque now (the USPS will pay for its plaque); the Chair said the money could be found but recommended waiting until the Commission had the exact cost of the plaque plus installation.

#### G. Raising of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary flag at Citizens Place

The Chair reported that this occurred on Tuesday, 16 January 2018, at 4:00 pm. The event was covered by the newspaper with an article appearing in the newspaper. The Chair was happy that several board members; the Chair gave an explanation of the meaning of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration for the residents of Somersworth.

#### H. 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Masquerade Ball and Miscellaneous

The Chair said that the Mayor had recommended piggybacking the Masquerade Ball on the Pumpkin Festival; both would be held on Saturday, 13 October 2018; the Masquerade Ball would be held at the VFW, with catered food, and a disc jockey from 7:00-10:00 pm.

#### **V. New Business:**

#### **VI. Communications and Miscellaneous:**

There were none.

#### **VII. Next Meeting:** Sunday, 25 February 2018 at 4:00 pm at City Hall.

**VIII. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 4:49 pm was made by Ms. Guptill and seconded by Mr. Murray. Motion was adopted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Pius Charles Murray*

(Mr.) Pius Charles Murray, MLS, MPA  
Secretary

