



Somersworth Cultural Commission

One Government Way
Somersworth, NH 03878

Minutes of Meeting held on 9 November 2016: First Draft

Present: Mayor Dana Hilliard; Councilor Marty Dumont, Chair; Jerry Corr; Diane Crawford; Sharon Hodsdon; Jenne Holmes; Rick Michaud; Rachel Watinmena; Dylan Zinkevich; Pius Charles Murray, Secretary.

In absentia: Richard Boulanger, Councilor Nancie Cameron, Celeste Feren, Maureen Jackman, Arlene Jones, Peter Matthieu, Dylan Zinkevich

I. Call to Order: At 5:59 pm by the Chair.

II. Introductions:

The Chair introduced the Commission's newest member, Mr. Jerry Corr, and asked each Commissioner to introduce himself or herself.

III. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of 26 October 2016 tabled as not all members received them.

IV. Old Business:

A. Update on Thetford Mines (<http://www.ville.thetfordmines.qc.ca/>)

Mayor Hilliard updated the Commission on new developments with Thetford Mines initiative. According to the Mayor, Ms. Jackman is visiting Thetford Mines this weekend for a family affair but she will make contact with her nephew who is Principal of the only English speaking school in the metropolitan area; this will further cement the sister-city relationship and begin planning more specifically for the visit by some Somersworth Middle School and High

School students in Spring 2017. The Mayor said the students would probably visit Wednesday or Thursday through Saturday. The Middle School students will experience partial immersion in Thetford Mines's French culture while the High School students will have a full immersion experience. The Chair asked Ms. Wattimena and Mr. Zinkevich, our two student representatives, if they would like to participate.

B. Update on the Nuns's Story:

No report as neither Ms. Jones nor Mr. Boulanger was present. The Chair explained to Mr. Corr that due to the number and influence of Catholic education in the city, particularly during the 1950s-1960s when there were three orders of nuns active in the city, the Commission would like to document the historical importance of their efforts.

C. Update on the Flag Raisings:

Mr. Michaud reported that the two flagpoles have now been erected around the Ten Commandments. The Mayor further explained that the U.S. flag and the N.H. flag will fly on the flagpole at City Hall. Near the Ten Commandments, one flagpole will always fly the flag of Somersworth while the other will fly flags from different groups in town; when there is no other flag to fly on the second flagpole, a second Somersworth flag will be flown. The Mayor brought into the Commission meeting the Somersworth flag that he has purchased. The Chair reported that the Indonesian Community contributed \$1,780 while the Eagles gave \$200 and Tri-City Christian Academy gave \$1,000. Furthermore the Chair reported that the American Legion has stated its intent to support purchasing U.S. flags to be flown in the city. The Mayor has asked Mr. Michaud to set up a time to put up the first two Somersworth flags next to the Ten Commandments.

D. Channels 22 and 95:

Ms. Holmes had no formal report. A schedule of television events for Channels 22 and 95 has been set through December. Ms. Holmes did ask the Chair to identify five speakers whose welcoming greetings to Somersworth would be videotaped in December and start being televised in January 2017. The five languages represent Somersworth's founding communities (English, Irish, French Canadian, and Greek) as well as the Indonesian Community. After the taped greetings, the Mayor and Chair of the Cultural Commission could introduce the Commission to the citizens of the city and invite them to participate in city life. Ms. Holmes would like to do a program on each committee serving Somersworth to give residents a flavor of the many different ways one can serve. Mr. Corr strongly recommended using a structured setting with a script in order to get across specific points one wants to particularly on a television show.

E. Student Report:

Ms. Wattimena reported having attended a World Language Club meeting. Mr. Zinkevich inquired about the community service project and how could students perform this for the Christmas Parade. The Mayor responded that six or seven students would be needed to carry the

five flags and the Cultural Commission banner; a couple of other students could assist in any setting-up and/or breaking down before and after the parade. Mr. Zinkevich will report this information back to the Student Council.

F. Bus Trip to Thetford Mines:

The Chair reported discovering that in the past there were semi-annual bus tours to Thetford Mines and that the woman (Anna Chip) who did them is still alive and healthy enough to be willing to undertake planning them again. The bus for Eagle Bus Lines would cost \$7,000 excluding the cost of putting up the driver as well as each traveler's own expenses. The Mayor wants to get the two Chambers of Commerce to talk to one another and see what specials could be offered. The preliminary plan would be to aim for the first trip, for which the Chair has found about 44 people interested, during the Music Festival in Thetford Mines in June 2017. The Mayor has both the Festival Association and the Greater Somersworth Chamber of Commerce interested in helping to make this happen.

G. International Festival:

The Mayor has engaged the Food Truck from Red Hook in Portsmouth to participate in next summer's International Festival. The Food Truck activities would happen on Friday while the Festival would condense its activities into an all-day Saturday affair.

K. Cookbook update

Ms. Wattimena has sent some Indonesian recipes to Ms. Crawford who gave them to the Mayor at this meeting. The Mayor hopes to have a couple of sample copies for the next Commission meeting. The Commission agreed that it would be too early to have enough copies ready for the Christmas Parade on 12/03/2016. Ms. Holmes recommended having them ready for sale and a signing at the Historical Museum on 12/11/2016; the event could be booked from 12:30-3:30 pm on that date. Ms. Holmes asked the Mayor if he would be available for the signing. The Chair would like to continue promoting the cookbook through a book tour; there is a French Club in Rochester and Mr. Murray stated that he knows of a French Meet-up Club in Dover that meets usually but not always at Panera's. (<http://www.meetup.com/SeacoastNHFrench/member/195249693/>). These could be additional ways to raise the visibility of the new edition of the Somersworth Cookbook. The consensus for the cookbook's sale price was \$10.00.

L. Cultural Meal:

The Chair reported that April has been chosen as the month for the first cultural meal but the date has not yet been finalized. The Chair also stated that to exert some control over attendance tickets to the event should be sold. Since this is not a fundraiser, the money would be used to pay expenses incurred by the Culinary School and others. Suggestions by some other Commissioners included having culturally relevant entertainment at the meal. More specific decisions will be made in the near future.

IV. New Business

No new business

V. Next Meeting:

The Chair recommended holding the December meeting early in the month due to the plethora of holidays. The Commission will aim for either the first or second Wednesday or the first or second Thursday.

VI. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 7:05 pm was made by The Mayor and seconded by Mr. Michaud. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pius Charles Murray

(Mr.) Pius Charles Murray
Secretary



**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!
2017**