



Somersworth Cultural Commission

One Government Way
Somersworth, NH 03878

Minutes of Meeting held on 8 February 2017: First Draft

Present: Mayor Dana Hilliard; Councilor Marty Dumont, Chair; Gerry Corr; Diane Crawford; Celeste Feren; Sharon Hodsdon; Jenne Holmes; Maureen Jackman; Rick Michaud; Dylan Zinkevich; Pius Charles Murray, Secretary.

In absentia: Richard Boulanger, Councilor Nancie Cameron, Arlene Jones, Peter Matthieu, Rachel Watinmena

I. Call to Order: At 5:58 pm by the Chair.

II. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the previous meeting were tabled until the next Cultural Commission meeting.

III. 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. Among the number of music festivals held in Thetford Mines, the Music Festival being held 17-19 August 2017 seems to be the one most appropriate for the initial welcome of a Somersworth contingent in Thetford Mines. There was considerable discussion concerning the itinerary, transportation, cost, and whether a side day trip to Quebec would be feasible. The trip will be promoted by the Greater Somersworth Chamber of Commerce with the goal of filling one bus (approximately 90 people). The cost for the bus alone is \$6,000; additional costs will include

hotel rooms for the bus driver, and two trip organizers, and perhaps some individual meals. The Mayor said he would be working with the Mayor of Thetford Mines to try to arrange special prices for the hotel rooms, as well as some discounts for meals. Since the Music Festival is in August, the Mayor urged the Cultural Commission to begin setting deadlines. The Chair asked Ms. Holmes to develop some public service announcements raising the visibility of this event for broadcast on Channels 22 and 95. Ms. Holmes responded that she could have some information on the city website as soon as tomorrow. Mr. Murray asked if Channels 22 and 95 had prime time spots that would reach the widest audience; the Mayor recommended broadcast immediately after City Council meetings and School Committee meetings.

The Mayor also reported that he was still hopeful to have a student exchange this year. Ms. Feren was working on this and was very positive that it should take place by the end of 2017.

B. Cultural Meal:

The Chair reported that the Cultural Meal would be held in April 2017 in the school's new culinary center. Councilor Cameron and the Chair would be meeting this week with the Head Cook to go over the menu. Given how close April is, the Chair wants the Cultural Commission to decide soon on the ticket price; the Greater Somersworth Chamber of Commerce would be the prime avenue for the sale of the Cultural Meal tickets. Ms. Feren asked for a specific date as soon as possible; she also wanted to know if students could attend, and if any of the recipes from the Somersworth Cookbook could be offered. The Chair responded to the query about including recipes from the Somersworth Cookbook by saying that if any of them fulfill the school's culinary curriculum it may be possible to include some but he could not offer any guarantees.

C. Somersworth Cookbook:

The Mayor reported that he was still waiting for some Indonesian recipes. Ms. Hodsdon said that Ms. Watinmena had submitted a number by email; the Mayor asked her to send him the Google docs file. The Mayor furthermore recommended unveiling the cookbook at the Cultural Meal through a limited printing; then for the city's 125th anniversary next year, an appropriate new cover could be developed for a full scale printing.

Speaking of the City's 125th Anniversary, the Mayor asked for any volunteers who might be available to work on a Committee he is appointing to plan the city's celebration. Interestingly, the Mayor remarked that Thetford Mines is celebrating its 125th Anniversary this year.

D. Stop/Arrêt Signs:

The Chair said that the Commission needed prices for the five signs, including one for the newly-designated Citizens Place downtown. The Mayor suggested adding the mileage from Somersworth to Thetford Mines to the signs; he also mentioned purchasing a set of signs for Thetford Mines (with the concomitant change of mileage from Thetford Mines to Somersworth). The Commission debated who could design or even make the signs to reduce cost; the Mayor suggested that possibly schools in Rochester which have a metal working shop could help.

E. Student Report:

Mr. Zinkevich reported that the Middle School's World Language Club was going well but that the two members from the High School felt out of place. Ms. Feren confirmed that saying that some students thought the club was too structured and recommended have a more informal structure where students could gather and talk about their experiences with other cultures.

F. Banners:

The Mayor reported that the 20/20 Vision Committee has had a challenge getting all the flags which are to rotate on poles on High Street and downtown; as discussed each flag would represent the four founding groups of the city and the Indonesian community and have the word "Welcome" in that language.

Due to the New England Patriots' recent championship, there was discussion of obtaining a Championship flag and flying it in Citizens Place. Various alternatives for entertainment (e.g. attendance by a Patriots player or a local Somersworth resident, Mark Richardson, who held season tickets) were discussed. The Mayor thought everything could come together to have a flag raising in a week or so and so it has been tentatively scheduled for Friday, 17 February 2017, at 4:00pm.

G. Flag Raising dates for 2017:

The Mayor had a listing of flag raisings for 2017 as follows:

March 17th – The Irish national flag for St Patrick's Day (flag raising on Friday, March 10th)

March 25th – The Greek national flag for Greek Independence Day (ceremony on Monday, March 20th)

April 23rd – The flag of the United Kingdom for St. George's Day (ceremony on Monday, April 17th)

June 24th – The Provincial flag of Quebec for St. Jean de Baptiste Day (ceremony on Friday, June 16th)

The Indonesian flag will be flown during the annual Somersworth Indonesia Festival (TBD)

K. Miscellaneous:

The Mayor asked Mr. Corr to line up some Irish entertainment for the City Council meeting on 6 March 2017.

The Mayor reported that he has been invited to participate in the welcoming ceremonies for the new Indonesian Consul General in New York. Furthermore he will meet at some point with the Indonesian Ambassador in Washington. During these consultations, he hopes to find out what

recommendations for a sister city have been made.

The Food Festival of America which will participate in the city's International Festival in June has already lined up 20 food trucks and 5 beer trucks. Those numbers could be increased depending on online ticket sales. Since this is a national organization which has followers who go from one food truck festival to another, the city can expect to draw a crowd from a wider audience than usual (low end estimate of 10,000-12,00 to a high end estimate of 15,000-20,000). It is the main fundraiser for the Greater Somersworth Chamber of Commerce.

IV. New Business

No new business

V. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 7:17 pm was made by The Mayor and seconded by Ms. Holmes. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pius Charles Murray

(Mr.) Pius Charles Murray
Secretary