



Somersworth 125th Anniversary Commission

One Government Way Somersworth, NH 03878

Minutes of 125th Anniversary Commission of 4 March 2018: First Draft

Praesens:

Jenne Holmes, Chair	Eric Mommsen
Gerri Cannon	Ann Ward
Dina Gagnon	Pius Murray, Secretary
Frank E. Kennedy	

Agenda and Meeting

I. Call to Order: At 4:01 pm by the Chair.

II. Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the December 2017 minutes as submitted was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Ms. Cannon. Motion was adopted unanimously.

Motion to approve the January 2018 meeting minutes as submitted was made by Ms. Cannon and seconded by Mr. Murray. Motion was adopted unanimously.

Motion to table the February 2018 meeting minutes was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Ms. Cannon. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Old Business:

A. 125th Anniversary Commission budget

The Chair reported that the Commission had made \$76 from sale of T-shirts and hoodies, of which \$18 was added to the Commission's account; the Chair reported a balance of \$85 for FY 2018. Mr. Mommsen asked if any handbags had been sold, to which the Chair responded none. The Chair asked the Commission for input into its FY 2019 request. After considerable discussion, the Chair decided to request between \$2,000-\$3,000 from the City Council. Sale of memorabilia will reimburse the city somewhat.

B. Celebration at Somersworth Historic Museum on Sunday, 18 February 2018: Kick-off event

The Commission was very complimentary to the Chair for the year's kick-off event at the Somersworth Historic Museum. The Chair reported that she had asked all the churches in town to ring at noontime on Sunday, 18 February 2018, and that all the pastors complied willingly. The Chair designated Ms. Ward to send thank-you cards to the pastors. The Chair said that Mayor Hilliard read the first inaugural address of the Somersworth's first Mayor which had never been entered into the city's official records. The Chair thanked Mr. Kennedy of the Museum for hosting the event and for the excellent cake (and other refreshments) provided for the event. The Chair will also thank Ralph Richardson, a musketeer re-enactor, who was present and fired his musket as part of the celebration.

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

In the absence of Mr. Nagy who heads this event, the Chair reported that ticket prices have now been set: \$20 per person or \$30 per couple. Tickets are on sale online from Eventbrite. The one item still to be priced is the set of porta potties. Five local bands have agreed to appear. There was some discussion concerning whether alcohol should be served, or should this be a family event. The consensus seemed to be that if the sale of alcohol was physically separate from the rest of the event that would be acceptable. The event will occur at Memorial Field at the Somersworth High School and the Chair has the confirmed reservation.

D. Ornaments and T-shirts

The Chair reported that the Commission had expended \$192 for 24 ornaments. Mr. Mommsen said that 24 ornaments should be sufficient; if they sell out, the Commission can always order more but in his experience, Mr. Mommsen said that they are not necessarily the most popular piece of memorabilia. The Chair reported that the T-shirts are very popular; to increase sales, the Chair will mention them on the 125th Anniversary Commission's Facebook p

E. Fireworks

The Chair reported that she and Ms. Gagnon have been negotiating with the Children's Festival Board about co-sponsoring the Fireworks during the International Children's Festival in June 2018. The Chair was confident that an agreement could be reached and that she would keep the Commission informed about progress. The Chair also reported that to afford the fireworks the Commission needed additional sponsors.

F. Cultural Commission/125th Anniversary Commission Taste of Somersworth event

The Chair reported that a date (Wednesday, 18 April 2018) had been set for the co-sponsored culinary event at Mulligan's Grill at the Somersworth High School's CTC; the menu with a Taste of Somersworth theme and ticket prices were still to be determined.

H. 125th Anniversary Ball and Miscellaneous

There was considerable discussion concerning the name of the celebration, the theme, the date, place, time, location, and sale of alcohol. Originally described as a Halloween-themed Masquerade Ball, the Commission was leaning towards a 125th Anniversary Celebration to attract as many people as possible. That the annual Pumpkin Festival is scheduled for Sunday, 13 October 2018 influenced the Commission to reconsider the date of the 125th Anniversary Ball; the consensus, if the VFW Hall is available, is for Saturday, 3 November 2018, from 7:30-11:00 pm, for which time frame light refreshments instead of a full meal may be served. If the VFW Hall is not available, the Chair will check with the Hall at Great Falls. Alcohol will be served in order for the institutions to make some money. The Chair designated Ms. Ward as the Chair of the 125th Anniversary Ball Subcommittee and requested from Ms. Ward a budget for the event.

V. New Business:

A. Cookbook

The Chair reported on the Cultural Commission's attempts to issue an updated Somersworth cookbook by adding Indonesian recipes; it would simply be a reissue of an earlier cookbook. Mr. Michaud recommended starting from scratch and issuing a brand new 125th Anniversary Cookbook. Mr. Mommsen cautioned that too many memorabilia dilutes an already small market (he made reference to the myriad copies of the Somersworth monopoly game still in existence).

B. Food Truck Festival

The Chair reported that the Food Truck Festival had invited the 125th Anniversary Commission to have a booth. The consensus of the Commission was to accept and use the opportunity to inform the attendees about Somersworth and to sell memorabilia.

C. Miscellaneous events

The Commission discussed having a presence at the National Night Out in August 2018 and a float or flags in the Christmas parade. The Commission will continue to discuss its participation in miscellaneous events.

VI. Communications and Miscellaneous:

There were none.

VII. Next Meeting: Sunday, 22 April 2018 at 4:00 pm at City Hall.

VIII. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 5:03 pm was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Ms. Gagnon. Motion was adopted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pius Charles Murray

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

