



Somersworth Cultural Commission

One Government Way, Somersworth, NH 03878

Minutes of Cultural Commission Meeting of March 3, 2021

The Chair read the New Hampshire state COVID-19 Guidelines regarding the holding of public meetings.

The Chair announced that roll call votes will be necessary for all motions.

Present

Commissioner	Present	Excused
Councilor Matt Gerding	X	
Councilor Nancy Cameron	x	
Celeste Feren	x	
Jenne Holmes	x	
Maureen Jackman		x
Councilor Richard Michaud	x	
Pius Charles Murray		x
Arlene Jones		x

Agenda and Minutes

I. Call to Order: at 4:04 pm by the Chair.

II. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve the 20th January, 2021 minutes as submitted was made by Ms. Holmes and Seconded by Councilor Michaud.

2. Roll Call Vote on the Approval of Minutes of 01/20/2021 Meeting

Commissioner	Yes	No	Abstain
Councilor Matt Gerding	X		
Councilor Nancy Cameron			x
Celeste Feren	x		
Jenne Holmes	x		
Councilor Richard Michaud	x		

The Chair announced that the minutes of the 01/20/2021 meeting were approved by a majority vote (4 - 0 - 1).

II. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve the 9th February, 2021 minutes as submitted was made by Ms. Feren and Seconded by Councilor Michaud.

3. Roll Call Vote on the Approval of Minutes of 02/09/2021 Meeting

Commissioner	Yes	No	Abstain
Councilor Matt Gerding	X		
Councilor Nancy Cameron			x
Celeste Feren	x		
Jenne Holmes	x		
Councilor Richard Michaud	x		

The Chair announced that the minutes of the 02/09/2021 meeting were approved by a majority vote (4 - 0 - 1).

III. Old Business:

1. Discussion of cultural banners to be flown downtown Somersworth.

Chair read a letter of communication from Kathleen Blake regarding the inclusion of Indigenous people when considering the creation of the cultural banners that would be flown downtown.

A robust discussion was had by the group and it was ultimately agreed that Indigenous people would be included in the 6 groups that would be featured on the banners. These included Indigenous people, Irish, English, Indonesian, French and Greek cultures. The chair agreed to

reach out and find out what word/symbol would be appropriate for use on the Indigenous people banner.

It was also decided after some discussion each group would be represented by a different colored ink and would alternate between the 'welcome to historic downtown Somersworth' banners that are in place at present. Councilor Cameron make a motion to move forward with the banner project and was seconded by Councilor Michaud.

Commissioner	Yes	No	Abstain
Councilor Matt Gerding	X		
Councilor Nancy Cameron	x		
Celeste Feren	x		
Jenne Holmes	x		
Councilor Richard Michaud	x		

The Chair announced that the motion passed by a majority vote (5 - 0 - 0).

2. Mission Statement

Two possible mission statements had been submitted by members for the edification of the committee. Each was read by the chair and a discussion followed with some wordsmithing. While the final version was not approved by the committee the chair stated that he would forward it to the full committee and also to the Mayor. The final version read:

"It is the mission of the Somersworth Cultural Commission to promote public appreciation, participation, dialogue, and support for the invaluable contribution that arts, culture, and history make in our community, and to build and promote a flourishing and vibrant arts and cultural environment."

VII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 4.35 pm was made by Councilor Cameron and seconded by Councilor Michaud.

Roll Call Vote to Adjourn

Commissioner	Yes	No	Abstain
Councilor Matt Gerding	X		
Councilor Nancy Cameron	x		
Celeste Feren	x		

Jenne Holmes	x		
Councilor Richard Michaud	x		

The Chair announced that the motion to adjourn was adopted by a majority vote (5-0-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenne Holmes