



Somersworth Cultural Commission

One Government Way
Somersworth, NH 03878

Minutes of Meeting on 26 October 2016: First Draft

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

In absentia: Richard Boulanger, Councilor Nancie Cameron, Maureen Jackman, Arlene Jones, Dylan Zinkevich

I. Call to Order: At 6:00 P.M. by the Chair.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes of the 28 September 2016 meeting as amended was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Ms. Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Old Business:

A. Update on Thetford Mines

Mayor Hilliard updated the Commission on new developments with Thetford Mines initiative. The Mayor recommended describing our Quebecois friends as French Canadians. Current plans are focusing on planning (and doing fundraising) to send some Somersworth Middle School and some Somersworth High School students to visit Thetford Mines during Spring 2017; the estimate is up to fifteen Somersworth Students. The Middle School students would attend St Paul's English speaking school and thus have a partial immersion experience

while the High School students would have a complete French immersion experience. The trip would last approximately 3 days.

The Mayor is also planning to host the Mayor of Thetford Mines in Somersworth sometime in June 2017 when there is the International Children's Festival.



B. The Festival:

The Mayor reported having contacted the Food Truck at Red Hook for it to participate in conjunction with the International Children's Festival next June. This will necessitate forming a new committee to deal with all planning as well as alter some activities: (a) the Food Truck Festival would occur on Friday from 11:00am-5:00pm; (b) the rest of the Children's Festival including its original Friday night activities would take place on Saturday.

Ms. Feren stated that she has attended several such Food Truck events across the country and reports that they are very popular. For more information, Ms. Feren recommended looking at the Food Truck website.



C. Update on the Christmas Parade:

The Mayor reported that a Cultural Commission banner is being designed. Five students will carry the five ethnic group flags plus the Cultural Commission banner.

Ms Feren reported that the NHS does not have manpower to commit to these festivities but would be willing to make either a cash (up to perhaps \$200) or in-kind donation. Ms. Feren also stated that the Student Council and Class Advisors would like more details. Since the schools are introducing a community service project for students, the Christmas Parade particularly if it had a number of different ways to participate could be a good introduction to community service.

The Mayor stated that the Christmas Parade begins to assemble on Saturday, 3 December 2016, at 2:00 pm. Fireworks will take place about 4:30 pm. Berwick, ME is coordinating its parade with Somersworth's.



D. Channels 22 and 95::

Ms. Holmes asked for five speakers of the five ethnic group languages to record a brief greeting (e.g. Welcome to Somersworth) for broadcast on television. The Mayor and Chair would be standing in front of the City Seal at the end of the broadcast as a plug to the community.

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E. **Cultural Commission Publicity:**

The Chair reported meeting with the Superintendent of Schools and the Head of the Culinary School; they talked about the possibility of holding Cultural Meals in February 2017 and April 2017. Any left-overs may be donated to Mulligan's Grill and/or the Culinary School. For the next meeting, the Commission should consider setting a price low enough to encourage broad community attendance and participation.

F. **Student Report:**

Neither Rachel nor Dylan were present due to school activities and so no report was made. (See above Report on Christmas Parade).

G. **Bus Trip to Thetford Mines:**

The Chair reported investigating bus prices with Premium Bus. One bus would hold 108 people and its cost, excluding the driver's hotel expenses, would be \$7,000, which would come to about \$65 per person just for the bus. The Mayor stated that he will ask both Chambers of Commerce to start talking together to try and get more bargains for any Somersworth residents traveling to Thetford Mines.

J. **Stop Signs:**

Motion to authorize the Commission to begin the process installing five Stop/Arret signs, one in each of Somersworth's Wards was made by Ms. Feren and seconded by Mr. Murray. Motion passed unanimously.



K. **Cookbook update**

Ms. Crawford did not receive any Indonesian recipes from Rachel by 15 October 2016. Ms. Feren volunteered to contact Rachel to ensure that this new material be ready for inclusion soon. The Mayor reported that he has a copy of the original edition and simply needs any updated

recipes, some Indonesian recipes, and inclusion of an introductory letter. The Chair would like to bring the completed book on a Book Tour to promote interest; while it may not be ready for the Christmas Parade, there is another smaller festival in mid-December which was set as the new deadline.

IV. New Business

A. Discussion on Flagpoles

The flagpoles would be ready by the first week of November.

B. Hilltop Plaque

The Mayor reported that a big boulder on which the Historical Registry plaque will be put has been moved to the former Hilltop school. On it will be a remembrance by the Hilltop Alumni Association of all students who attended the school. The Mayor would like to have a ceremony on 3 December 2016; the Chair asked Mr. Michaud to make plans for the Commission to attend.

V. Next Meeting:

The Chair reported that new member, Jerry Corry, would not be available on the date of our next meeting. The Commission decided to hold its November meeting on 9 November 2016.

VI. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 6:50 pm was made by Ms. Holmes and seconded by Mr. Matthieu. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pius Charles Murray

(Mr.) Pius Charles Murray
Secretary