



## **Somersworth Cultural Commission**

One Government Way  
Somersworth, NH 03878

Minutes of Regular Meeting of 28 March 2017: 1<sup>st</sup> Draft

### **Present:**

Martin P Dumont Sr., Chair  
Gerry Corr  
Diane Crawford  
Celeste Feren  
Sharon Hodsdon  
Jenne Holmes  
Maureen Jackman  
Rick Michaud  
Rachael Wattimena  
Dylan Zinkevich  
Pius Charles Murray, Secretary

### **In abstentia:**

The Honorable Dana Hilliard, Mayor  
Peter Mathieu

### **Agenda & Minutes**

**I. Call to Order:** At 6:00pm by the Chair.

**II. Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes of the 8 February 2017 meeting as submitted was made by Mr. Michaud and seconded by Ms. Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

**III. Thetford Mines:** In the absence of the Mayor, the Chair reported that things were moving forward for the initial bus trip to Thetford Mines in August 2017. The Chair announced the formation of an *ad-hoc* committee comprised of Arlene Jones and the Chair to finalize plans for this bus trip. The Chair announced that eight people have already signed up. The Committee recommended starting with one bus; the Chair announced that although this trip initially considered visiting Quebec after attending the Music Festival of 17-19 August 2017 the Chair reported that the bus trip will only go to Thetford Mines. Eagle Coach Bus will provide transportation; arrival will be late in the evening on 17 August 2017; Thetford Mines will provide a potluck supper upon arrival. Ms Feren inquired if hotel arrangements had already been made since the Music Festival will attract a large crowd; the Chair responded that Mayor Hilliard was working with the Mayor of Thetford Mines on the arrangements.

**IV. Student Exchange:** Ms. Feren reported that there would be no student exchange this year as it was too late in Thetford Mines's academic year to plan this initiative. The Committee then discussed the timing and length of a student exchange as a mid-year one week exchange with Spanish students did not work out well; they were too interested in partying. Ms. Feren recommended either a one-semester or a full academic year exchange as well as better coordination of the program's activities.

**V. Flag raising:** Mr. Michaud reported that the next flag raising would be the Union Jack on 17 April 2017 for St. George's Day.

**VI. Student Report:** Ms. Wattimena reported the difficulties of attracting high school students to participate in the World Culture Club with Middle School students. According to Ms. Wattimena, the SHS students don't appear interested in a combined agenda. Ms. Wattimena did say that there is a taste testing of Indonesian food on an upcoming Community Day. Mr. Zinkevich seconded Ms. Wattimena's report concerning the apparent lack of interest in SHS students participating with SMS students in the World Culture Club. He expounded further that developing fun activities of interest to both groups combined or alternating between the interests of each might be a way to attract more participants. Mr. Corr had several recommendations, including some homework, for Ms. Wattimena and Mr. Zinkevich to be able to identify each group's interest and foster communication.

**VII. Media announcements:** Ms. Holmes reported that she was creating a slide presentation on the Committee's Thetford Mines trip which would air on Channel 22. She also will put an announcement in the city newsletter.

**VIII. Cultural Dinner:** The Chair reported that the dinner has been scheduled for 10 May 2017 beginning at 5:30pm. Tickets will cost \$10.00 each. Only 100 tickets can be sold. The Chamber of Commerce will coordinate ticket sales. Tickets will go on sale in early April.

**IX. Cookbook:** Ms. Crawford reported that the Mayor's introductory letter is the last item to send it to the school department for reproduction. The goal is to have a limited edition to sell at the Cultural Dinner.

**XI. Stop Sign:** The Chair reported that he is waiting for the Chief Police to inform him of New Hampshire state regulations for the production of traffic signs; specifically, the Committee needs to know if the state requires traffic signs to be made by the prison system.

**XI. Special recommendations to the Students for the World Culture Club:** Mr. Corr offered some very good advice to Ms. Wattimena and Mr. Zinkevich about how to obtain student body demographic information that would be helpful to plan activities for the World Language Club. Mr. Corr's recommendations include finding out information about 80% of the student body of each school and to use social media to attract student interest and responses. Mr. Corr gave two weeks to the students to find out that information.

**XII. Next Meeting:** 20 April 2017.

**XIII. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:47pm was made by Ms. Feren and seconded by Mr. Michaud. Motion passed unanimously.

Sincerely yours,

*Pius Charles Murray*

(Mr.) Pius Charles Murray  
Secretary