

SWEETSER LECTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of 11/3/21

Attending: Sara Murphy, Joe Spear, Lorraine Lackey, Jeanne Blumer, Bob Burk, Julie Scott, Helen Hincman and Susan Kilkelly

Secretary's report

The last meeting was 3/16/20 to deal with cancellation of series due to Covid 19.
Minutes approved

Treasurer's report -

We received a donation of \$200 from Brian McCoubrey in the prior fiscal year

Lorraine provided a report for the current fiscal year:

Since 7/1/21, the start of the current fiscal year the accounts have earned interest of

Primary account - \$8.06

Guaranty account - \$30.86

Expenditures since 7/1/21

Post Office Box \$162.00

Our account shows a negative balance for the year, but overall a positive balance as there is money in both the primary and guaranty accounts.

We last paid WCAT in February of 2020 for the fiscal year 2019/2020. They don't usually give us a bill until Bob Burk asks for one. He will ask now. If they want payment for the 2020/2021 fiscal year as well as the current fiscal year we will pay it.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's report was moved, seconded and passed

Old Business

1) What records should we keep and where should we store them. We have not made a determination. Lorraine had talked to Jeff Klapes, then head reference librarian, now retired, who thought the library might be able to store them but he needed to know how much it would be.

2) Posters and banner - Susan Kilkelly still has both

3) Return of \$ to ticket holders. All but \$300 was returned when the 2020 series was cancelled. Jackie Sorrentino at Town Hall handled most of it and Lorraine was very happy with her help. The \$300 was cash paid by people who bought tickets and didn't come forward to be

reimbursed.

4) Web Page designed - Before we shut down for the pandemic, Jennifer McDonald at Town Hall had some suggestions. She emailed Ian at WCAT asking for a recommendation. Lorraine will follow up on that

New Business

1) Meeting with Town Authorities - Sara tried to schedule a meeting to discuss whether and how we could proceed with the series. Ultimately it was decided that we should make our own decisions and call on Tom Mullen if we had legal questions or Steve Maio for general questions.

2) We would like to honor the late Diane Lind at our next lecture.

3) Reserving the Savings Bank Theatre

We no longer go through Tom Bankert. It is now handled by Trudy Connelly who works in the Superintendent's office. The procedure is automated. We need to be approved to use the system. Once that is done we can go in and pick dates. Final approval rests with Ms. Connelly

Due to Covid 19, seating is limited by requiring an empty seat separating each individual or family group from neighbors. That may limit capacity to 135-150 people.

Would it be better to use the Galvin Auditorium which seats about 600 normally so would be closer to 300 with the same seat restrictions? The charities would do better if we can sell more tickets. Other ideas for venues included the various schools and churches but most are either too small or have other issues. Would it be possible to use a tent in a parking lot as they do for Town Meeting?

Several Committee members had strong feelings about sticking with the Savings Bank Theatre. Reasons given were good seats and good equipment with which our technical adviser (Bob) is already familiar.

4) Proposal to change the timing of the lecture series

Sara proposed having one lecture in the Spring and 2 in the Fall. One issue would be figuring out how much we could distribute where the event was in 2 fiscal years.

A second suggestion was made to have all three lectures in Fall 2022. That would avoid the fiscal year problem and give us time to see whether Covid 19 has been tamed enough to allow us to have our series without complications. A suggestion was made that it might be easier to book the Savings Bank Theatre as it would not conflict with the annual spring musical and other spring school events.

To make sure not to run into fiscal year issues, we would make sure no patron or benefactor checks were deposited until 7/1/2022.

A motion was made and seconded to hold the 2022 lecture series in Fall 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

5) Ideas for speakers

We still have the possibility of all three of our 2020 speakers. Barbara Berenson's topic of the 1920 Woman's Suffrage victory might not be timely. Also her fee has gone from \$250 to \$300. Neither of the other two topics are affected by time and, as far as we know, neither fee has gone up.

Thinking about topical subjects, a suggestion was made regarding Covid 19, but the committee felt it would be better to have something uplifting. Julie suggested Wakefield native comedian Paul D'Angelo, stage name of Paul Murphy. That idea was well received and she will look into the possibility. Another local comedian is Brad Mastrangelo.

6) Committee member assignments- They will generally stay the same. Julie will take over Diane Lind's duties in setting up for the lectures.

7) Donation to Emmanuel Episcopal Church (EEC) last made on in 2019. We had 8 or 10 meetings in preparation for the cancelled 2020 series. We agreed to donate \$250.00 now for that time period. Interestingly, a list published in the Wakefield Item of uncashed checks included one from the Sweetser Committee to the Church in 2017. The church has since been paid. The motion to pay the EEC for 2019/2020 was moved, seconded and passed.

8) Sara noted that Mark Sardella had published a picture of Cornelius Sweetser in the Wakefield Item with a note asking when the lectures would resume.

9) Meeting schedule

We have a meeting scheduled for 11/17 at 7 at the EEC. Meetings will resume after the new year.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kilkelly