

Newtown Cultural Arts Commission

Minutes December 7, 2023

The minutes are subject to approval by the NCAC members at the next Arts Commission Meeting

The Newtown Cultural Arts Commission held a meeting on Thursday, December 7, 2023, in the Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by Commission Chairperson Laura E. Lerman.

Members Present: Laura Lerman, Andrea Spencer, Jennifer Cebry, Roger Connor, Rob Kaiser, Dan Ferreira

Members Absent: Jim Cebry, Robyn Lynch, Michael Jehle, Grant Ossendryver, Terry Sagedy, Linda Parsloe, Dina Sabia

Auxiliary Members: None

Members of the Public: Erik Connor

1. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes from November 2, 2023, by Jennifer Cebry, 2nd approved by Andrea Spencer. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.
2. **Officer's Reports:**

The terms for Laura Lerman, Robyn Lynch, and Roger Connor have been continued until January 2027.

The Commission was asked to complete a questionnaire sent out by email as Ms. Lerman will be meeting with a company creating a plan for conservation and development on December 18th. The plan is completed every 10 years and must reflect the community vision towards land use, housing, transportation, and environmental conservation. This helps Newtown Cultural Arts to be eligible for certain state grants. There was no Treasurer's Report.
3. **Arts Festival:**

Discussion on the Arts Festival will start in January.
4. **Scholarships/Grants:**

Grants: Paula has finished the signs for the Doors of Fairfield Hills.
Jane Sharpe has finished arranging for the sign on Queen Street; there will be an unveiling and press opportunity late this year.
EverWonder Children's Museum has finished their project.

Scholarships: The Commission discussed the guidelines used for choosing scholarship recipients; applicants must major in the arts. Discussion involved what is considered an art, an evaluation of the application process, the use of a rubric to assist evaluations, the interview process, the decision-making process of the scholarship committee, and the possibility of increasing the number of recipients.
Next year applicants will be able to electronically submit their applications.
5. **Public Participation:**

Erik Connor participated in the discussion on how scholarship applicants can give back to the community.

6. Community Center:

The Sip 'n Shop event was very successful.

The Winter's Farmer Market was also a great event and there is a waiting list for the next one on December 19th.

The Winter Guide will be coming out next week. The Commission would like to expand adult artistic offerings to encourage more adult participation and is seeking talented artists to offer classes. There was a discussion on a variety of programs that might stimulate interest.

7. Municipal Gallery; Artisan's Showcase:

Flagpole Photographers are in the Gallery. The Newtown Potters are in the showcase.

Their shows will end December 28. SCAN will be in the gallery and showcase beginning January 2.

8. Commission Website:

Ms. Lerman has reached out to a variety of senior centers and has asked them to share the website/calendar information with their members.

9. Other Business: None

10. A motion to adjourn was brought by Roger Connor and seconded by Dan Ferreira. All in favor. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:51pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Holden, Clerk