

Newtown Cultural Arts Commission

Minutes of August 1, 2019 Meeting

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE NEWTOWN CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION AT THE NEXT MEETING.

The Newtown Cultural Arts Commission held a meeting on Thursday, August 1, 2019 at the Municipal Center.

Members present: Jennifer Cebry, Grant Ossendryver, Laura Lerman, Sue Kassirer, Andrea Spencer, Deborra Zukowski

Members absent: Rob Kaiser, Tracy Van Buskirk, Suzanne Lang

Auxiliary members present: Jim Cebry

Public present: Steve DeMott

Laura Lerman called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

- Minutes: The minutes of the June 6, 2019 meeting were approved (moved Ossendryver, seconded Kassirer).
- Officers' Reports:
Chairman's Report (Laura Lerman):
 - The town has agreed to mow the grass around the train mural on Church Hill Rd.
 - The state has a bill to enable the designation of cultural districts. These districts would be similar to those used for antique shops, breweries, and wineries. The commission discussed possibly creating a cultural trail for local galleries, monuments, etc. Such trails would need signs and maps. No action taken.
 - Laura is working with Matt Ariniello to publicize the Municipal Center Gallery inside the Community Center. In addition, the commission discussed possible signage, visible from the Community Center, for the gallery.
 - Staples will be having a "Back to School Block Party on August 17 and 18. The commission can get a table for the event. Staples will donate the production of materials for the table.
- Treasurer's report (Jim Cebry):
 - Jim discussed the year-end financial status of the commission (see Appendix). The NCAC Gift fund includes money from the state intern grant. The town's records are consistent with the summary. The commissions has no budget from the town for 2019-2020 fiscal year.
- Public Participation: none
- Community Center (Jen Cebry): The Community Center will not be able to accommodate the Weaving Room program because of lack of space for the weaving equipment. Therefore, the program will remain with the commission.
- Newtown Arts Festival (Jen Cebry):
 - Equipment: Steve DeMott will provide information regarding sound system/production needed for bidding process.
 - Newtown Day: Fliers for the festival were handed out at Newtown Day. In addition, the weaving wall activity was tested there.
 - Outreach: In addition to the fliers on Newtown Day, Amy Mangold agreed to put the flier on the Parks and Rec page. Other marketing efforts are going slowly. The website is improving.

- Volunteers: Church Hill Village will be sending volunteers for Friday setup.
- Someday Cinema Series: No discussion
- Gallery at Municipal Center/ Gallery Showcase: For August, the gallery is showing the exhibition “Our Mothers; Their Work,” featuring paintings by Florence Marie Dohanos and Lucy Durand Sikes, as curated by their daughters, Linda Dohanos and Julia Sikes-Provey. The showcase will hold a wood-turning exhibition beginning on Monday, August 5. In September, the history of the Arts Festival will be displayed until September 23, when it will then show the composite art of Hannah Monroe.
- Library Showcase: The Newtown Environmental Action Team is exhibiting in the Showcase for August.
- Website: No discussion
- Other Business
 - Strategic plan for cultural arts at Fairfield Hills. Zukowski suggested the commission might look into crafting a strategic plan for a wider presence of cultural arts at Fairfield Hills. The commission proposed a possible committee to look into it. No action at this meeting. It will be discussed more at a future meeting.
 - Ossendryver suggested that the commission publish monthly handouts that list information about upcoming events. He is willing to spearhead the effort. He will put together a proposal that includes numbers and a mock-up for our next meeting.
 - Everwonder will be joining the Smithsonian Museum Day (theme “The Science of Music”) on September 21. This is a nationwide event that provides free admission for participants to try to offer museum access to people who don't usually attend museums. Everwonder is looking for people who can provide a workshop/demonstration for children from preschool to 10 years.

There being no other business it was moved (Jen Cebry) and seconded (Kassirer) to adjourn. Passed unanimously. Adjourned around 8:15 PM.

Appendix

6/27/2019	NCAC Budget 2018-2019	Balance	\$0.00	Plus Police Fee for 2018 Arts Festival
6/30/2019	NCAC Savings Account	Balance	\$50,384.19	
6/30/2019	NCAC Gift Fund	Balance	\$6,725.63	
1/31/2018	PayPal Balance	Balance	\$0.00	
4/28/2015	CDs	Balance	\$120,000.00	
Year End Notes:				
Weaving Room sub balance in Gift Fund - \$3,699.00				
State Intern Grant balance as of 6/30/19 - \$2,861.88				