

Newtown Cultural Arts Commission

Minutes of December 5, 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, December 5, 2019 at the Municipal Center.

Members present: Laura Lerman, Sue Kassirer, Andrea Spencer, Deborra Zukowski, Tracy Van Buskirk

Members absent: Jennifer Cebry, Suzanne Lang, Grant Ossendryver, Rob Kaiser

Auxiliary members present: none

Public present: Barbara Snyder, Scout Troop 870

Laura Lerman called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

- Minutes: The minutes of the November 7, 2019 meeting were approved (moved Kaiser, seconded Zukowski, passed unanimously).
- Officers' Reports:
 - Chairman's Report (Laura Lerman): Laura reported that the State of Connecticut has created the concept of "Cultural Districts" which would be specific locations within a town or city. To apply for this designation, the group would need to have 7 members each with a specific pre-determined role. The benefit to the group would be expedited grant applications and perhaps other advantages. The consensus is that it sounded administrative-heavy without any overriding benefits. Laura announced that Chairman Laura Lerman, Vice Chairman Andrea Spencer and Secretary Tracy Van Buskirk are all willing to continue in their respective roles in 2020.
 - Vice Chairman (Andrea Spencer): The 2020 scholarship program is underway. Flyers have been posted at the high school.
- Treasurer's report: No report
- Public Participation: Scout Troop 870 is observing this meeting as part of their "Citizenship in the Community" badge.
- Community Center: No report
- Newtown Arts Festival: Andrea Spencer noted that because Jen Cebry has stepped down as Chairman of the Festival, we need to find a replacement as soon as possible. She also suggested that Jen make an outline of her former responsibilities. Jen has agreed to work on the festival but not as Chairman. Jim Cebry will continue to coordinate the grounds work. Laura advised that she may know of a candidate to replace Jen. There was a discussion on the date for the 2020 festival and Sept 25-27 was decided. The previous weekend, which would have been the traditional weekend for the festival, conflicts with Rosh Hashanah.
- Strategic Plan Subcommittee: Deborra Zukowski reported that the subcommittee met on November 18 to review the CAC's mission statement and start to develop the strategic

plan. Because of the low attendance at this meeting, she will provide a report at the next CAC meeting on January 2nd, 2020.

- Public Relations: Grant Ossendryver was not in attendance, but Barbara Snyder of the EDC shared two information cards that the EDC has produced, which are being distributed at 6 locations in Connecticut. The cards are produced quarterly and highlight activities in Newtown. Barbara is hoping to find a “home” for this initiative and was sharing it with the CAC for that purpose.
- Gallery at Municipal Center/ Gallery Showcase: Flagpole Photographers show currently on display, to be followed in January by SCAN for two months. The showcase has a display of The Three Potters (led by Karen Pinto) through December, to be followed by an exhibit of glass blown art.
- Library Showcase: Current exhibit is The Nutcracker Suite to be followed on Dec 6 by Newtown Environmental Action Team (NEAT).
- Website: No report
- Other Business-
 - It was proposed that Barbara Snyder become an auxiliary member of the CAC. The motion was made by Deb Zukowski, seconded by Sue Kassirer and passed unanimously.
 - Tracy Van Buskirk reported that Lisa Schwartz, poet laureate of Newtown and co-organizer of the annual Risk A Verse event is moving away in the near future and will probably not be available to continue with this event. Tracy also said that she would like to step down. Replacements need to be found.
 - Tracy Van Buskirk also noted that there is an art opening on Dec 7 at Art & Frame Gallery. Former CAC member Robert Rabinowitz and his daughter will both have art in the exhibit, as well as Tracy. The show will be up through the holidays.

There being no other business it was moved (Van Buskirk) and seconded (Zukowski) to adjourn. Passed unanimously. Adjourned around 7:45 PM.