

## **Newtown Cultural Arts Commission**

Minutes of November 4, 2021 Meeting

These minutes are subject to approval by the NCAC, at the next meeting

The Newtown Cultural Arts Commission, held a meeting at the Community Center on Thursday, November 4, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Commission Chairman Laura E. Lerman.

**Members present:** Laura Lerman, Andrea Spencer, Roger Connor, Jen Cebry, Robert Kaiser, Grant Ossendryver (arrived 7:18), Daniel Ferreira, Tracy Van Buskirk

**Members absent:** None

**Auxiliary members:** Barbara Snyder

**Members of the Public:** Jordana Bloom

1. **Minutes:** It was moved by Roger that the minutes of the September 30, 2021 Special Meeting be approved, seconded by Dan and passed unanimously.

2. **Officers' Reports:** Laura participated in a Zoom call on 11/4/21 with the Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut to which each Selectman in the 10 town alliance was invited. CAWS is encouraging towns to use 1% of PPP allocation each town received towards the arts. Each town is receiving approximately \$7.5 million. Laura would love to see an Art Walk created at FH. Dan Rosenthal had previously expressed support of this project. Dan also said that a majority of the funds will go towards infrastructure. Barb said that in previous conversations with Dan, he said that the best way to get funds is to have a very specific request. Jen noted that the newly formed Public Arts subcommittee will be doing exactly that. Andrea shared that she met with Michelle Hiscovich recently who said that the high school drama and musical productions will go forward as well as the Winter Concert. Andrea also spoke to artist Julia Provy who has finished up the interactive mural that was featured at the Art Festival and it will be displayed at the Community Center.

3. **Treasurers Report:** On behalf of Jim Cebry, Jen reported fund balances of: \$41,430.29 in the savings account, \$20,733.25 in the Gift Fund, \$0 in the PayPal account, \$1,304.29 in the NAF PayPal account and \$135,566.87 in the CD account. The Art Festival was very successful and the current profit before some final adjustments was \$16,538. Barb noted that if we can exceed a profit greater than \$15K for two years, we could then apply for endowment type grants.

4. **Public Participation:** Jordana Bloom joined our meeting to find out more about the CAC with the possibility of becoming a member.

5. **Newtown Art Festival:** Barbara shared an org chart for the 2022 Festival which hopefully can be used for years to come. By creating sub-chair positions, the burden of responsibilities will be lightened for the Chair. Nancy Cole and Linda Parsloe will assist in specifying and selecting art for the tee shirts and promotion. An RFP will be sent out soon requesting art work and specific area artists will be also be invited to submit. Artists do not have to be residents of Newtown. In other areas, Dan has agreed to be the musical curator. Roger is interested in adding a theatre component to the Activity Tents. Connie Widman will help with calls to sponsors. An application for a Connecticut Cultural Fund Operating Support Grant has been made for \$5,000 to hire a professional in web development and social media promotion, to benefit both the CAC and the Art Festival. The work would include the development of an Arts Activity Calendar for the town.

6. **Community Center:** Matt requested a meeting with Michelle Hiscovich to discuss The Parent Education Advisory Council (PEAT) developing programs for Youth Arts Month (March). It will include competitions, gallery showcases, activities, and they will also apply for a grant. There will be a Sip and Shop event on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> as a fundraiser for the CC.

7. **Public Art Committee:** had their first meeting. They are gathering information and strategies from area towns on how public art is handled. The PAC hopes to have specific proposal to present to the CAC by April to build a case for public art. The next meeting is Dec 22 and all are invited.

8. **CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grant-** discussed earlier.

9. **Initiatives:** Because of the success of the festival and our healthy savings, Laura would be supportive of spending funds on specific initiatives, such as an annual honorarium for a future Poet Laureate, increasing the amounts and number of scholarships and grants, pay artists to paint the plywood window coverings on some of the abandoned buildings at FH. Andrea moved that we increase the payment to the NAF artist from \$750 to \$1,000, seconded by Roger, passed unanimously.

10. **Municipal Gallery, Artisans' Showcase:** Flagpole Photographers in the gallery, Potters in the Showcase.

11. **Website:** no update

12. **Other Business:** Grant informed the committee of the music series now underway at ETH. The website lists the schedule. With the new equipment and an active Board of Managers, there is good momentum there. Laura announced

the resignation of Susan Kassirer from the CAC. There is now an opening for any affiliation.

There being no other business, Rob moved to adjourn, seconded by Jen, passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by

Tracy Van Buskirk  
Secretary  
Newtown Cultural Arts Commission