

# Newtown Cultural Arts Commission

## Minutes October 5, 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, October 5, 2023, in the Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm by Commission Chairperson Laura E. Lerman.

**Members Present:** Laura Lerman, Andrea Spencer, Jennifer Cebry, Jim Cebry, Roger Connor, Michael Jehle, Dan Ferreira, Dina Sabia

**Members Absent:** Robyn Lynch, Rob Kaiser, Grant Ossendryver, Terry Sagedy, Linda Parsloe

**Auxiliary Members:** None

**Members of the Public:** None

1. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes from August 3, 2023 by Dan Ferreira, 2<sup>nd</sup> approved by Dina Sabia. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.
2. **Officer's Reports:** Nothing to report
3. **Arts Festival:**

It was decided that a separate meeting will be scheduled to discuss a full report of the Arts Festival, but it is expected that there will be significant loss due to the weather cancellation.

The Commission is working to negotiate possible discounts on expenses with vendors, but vendors still need to be paid despite cancellations.

The Town Finance Department is reviewing expenses.

All contracts must be in writing moving forward.

The proceeds from the festival are used to provide scholarships and grants.

There was discussion on the possibility of indoor options and rain dates for future events.
4. **Treasurer's Report:**

There is \$26,000 in the gift fund which should be enough to cover incoming expenses, otherwise funds will need to be transferred.
5. **Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County:** David Green has retired. Ms. Lerman will not be attending any more meetings at the Fairfield County Alliance.
6. **Public Participation:** none
7. **Municipal Gallery; Artisan's Showcase:** There will be no further receptions due to poor attendance.
8. **Scholarships, Grants:**

The season starts again in January. The Commission will need to rewrite the grant form because the town is requesting receipts from the people/companies who will be performing work. They will also be revamping the scholarship guidelines.
9. **Commission Website:**

There is a slideshow on the website. Place holders are being replaced with new pictures. There are 20 venues and 20 organizations the Commission tracks with plans to add more.

Currently there are 6 free concerts, 2 free movies, other low-cost movies, art exhibits, and more on the website.

In the near future, arts activities at the high school that are open to the public will be added.

- 10.** A motion to adjourn was brought by Andrea Spencer and seconded by Dan Ferreira. All in favor. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Holden, Clerk