

Newtown Cultural Arts Commission

Minutes of December 3, 2020 Meeting

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

The Newtown Cultural Arts Commission, held a meeting via video conferencing on Thursday, December 3, 2020.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Commission Chairman Laura E. Lerman

Members present: Laura Lerman, Andrea Spencer, Deborra Zukowski, Tracy Van Buskirk, Sue Kassirer, Robert Kaiser, Suzanne Lang

Members absent: Jen Cebry, Grant Ossendryver

Auxiliary members: Jim Cebry

Members of the Public: none

Minutes: It was moved that the minutes of the November 5, 2020 meeting be approved; moved by Andrea Spencer, seconded by Sue Kassirer, no discussion, passed unanimously.

Officer Reports: Laura Lerman reported that Deborra Zukowski has decided to step down from the Commission because she is extremely busy serving on the BOE. The members all thanked her for her great service. Deborra made a motion to accept her as an auxiliary member, seconded by Van Buskirk, no discussion, passed unanimously. Laura also reported that she and Sue Kassirer have signed up for another three year term each.

Treasurer's Report: Jim reported that we have \$3,082 in the general checking account, \$41,414 in savings and \$135,566 in the CD.

Art Festival: Laura reported that Barbara Snyder has agreed to chair the Art Festival this year, should there be one. She was going to chair the 2020 festival before it was cancelled due to Covid. Barbara requested that we use the same art designed for the 2020 festival. All agreed.

Public Art at Fairfield Hills: To follow up on last month's meeting, regarding local artist Lindsay Fuori who would like to do some public art in Newtown and has approached us for a grant, Andrea reminded us that there one site to paint is the utility building near the dog park. Brian Engle, a 12-14 father, would like to donate funds to make some structural upgrades to that building. Amy Mangold at P&R will speak to Mr. Engle to see how he feels about a mural, which might not be possible if the building is going to be upgraded. Another location idea, the overpass at Exit 11 is problematic because it would require scaffolding. Andrea will explore the possibility of the barn at the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary.

Community Center: No report

Public Participation: The meeting was subject to a zoombombing. The CAC members hung up at approximately 7:15 and re-convened with a new link at 7:30 pm, with no further interruptions.

Facebook Page Calendars: Laura is posting weekly calendars of area arts commissions.

Poet Laureate: No news.

Scholarships / Grants: Andrea reported that the question has come up if the CAC scholarship should be limited to only those high school graduates who plan to major in the arts in college. Currently, the scholarship is open to students either majoring or minoring in the arts. There was a lively discussion on the pro's and con's. We discussed the fact that those majoring in music, for example, will be making major commitment in time and energy, vs those minoring in the arts. Rob said the level of commitment really depends on the individual and the art they create. Debbie asked what we are trying to achieve with our scholarship program...to bring arts to the community in a big way or if even someone pursuing art on a more personal level is equally worthwhile. Laura said the purpose as defined is to support artists in general. It was pointed out that perhaps the receipt of the scholarship has a non-monetary benefit to the recipient in that this recognition of their talent could be a motivator to pursue it in college, even if only as a minor. Andrea noted that Kitty Latowiki, who has coordinated the scholarships at the high school, is retiring this month which might have an impact on the scholarship programs in general. Tracy Van Buskirk made a motion to limit scholarship applications to those majoring in the arts, seconded by Andrea Spencer. There was further discussion and it was agreed that those planning on majoring in art education would be eligible. The motion passed with four in favor and two opposed.

Municipal Gallery/Showcase/Library Showcase: Dan Rosenthal will not make a decision on opening up the Municipal Gallery until January and only if the COVID numbers are better.

Website: No report.

Other Business: None.

It was moved by Andrea Spencer to adjourn, seconded by Tracy Van Buskirk, no discussion, passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.