

Newtown Cultural Arts Commission

Minutes of January 7, 2021 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, January 7, 2020.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Commission Chairman Laura E. Lerman

Members present: Laura Lerman, Andrea Spencer, Roger Connor, Tracy Van Buskirk, Sue Kassirer, Robert Kaiser, Jen Cebry, Grant Ossendryver

Members absent: Suzanne Lang

Auxiliary members: Barbara Snyder

Members of the Public: none

Minutes: It was proposed that the minutes of the December 3, 2020 meeting be approved; moved by Tracy Van Buskirk, seconded by Robert Connor, no discussion, passed unanimously.

Election of Officers: Laura presented the slate of officers for renewal of terms. They are Laura Lerman as Chairman, Andrea Spencer as Vice Chairman and Tracy Van Buskirk as Secretary. Grant Ossendryver moved to accept the proposed slate of officers, seconded by Jen Cebry. The motion passed unanimously.

Officer Reports: Laura Lerman reported that Robert Connor Jr has been appointed to the Commission, filling the position vacated by Deborah Zukowski. Robert has been involved in the arts for many years and serves on the Newtown Ambulance Corp. Laura pointed out that of the nine members, six have terms ending on Jan 26, 2022 (Kaiser, Cebry, Ossendryver, Van Buskirk, Lang, Spencer). She discussed with the First Selectman if it would be possible to extend the terms of Andrea Spencer, Rob Kaiser and Jen Cebry by one year for one time only so terms can be staggered more evenly in the future. Dan Rosenthal advised Laura to consult with town counsel so she will pursue it. Laura also reported that the weaving club has been meeting via Zoom during the pandemic.

Treasurer's Report: No report.

Art Festival: Barbara Snyder gave an update. Although we cannot be sure that we will be able to have the festival this year, we will move forward. Last year we cancelled in June and there had not been too many expenditures at that point. This year we will use the artwork designed by Nancy Cole last year. Barbara

will arrange to have the dates changed to Sept 17-19, 2021 on the artwork. Kelly Rafferty, who interned for us in 2019, has agreed to help out again with website management and other tasks. Barbara showed us the large card we had printed last year with sponsorship solicitation information, which will be updated and used again this year. Jen and Mike Guman have agreed to do entertainment programming, Andrea will do tee shirts and the Beer and Wine Tent. Tracy will do Make and Take Tent and Cool Down and Color Tent. Jen and Jim Cebry will do grounds, Laura and Ken Lerman will be in charge of the front tent and merch sales. Barbara said the site plan will be mostly the same with a few possible tweaks. We are hopeful that attendees of the Friday night event will be able to bring their alcohol drinks to their chairs and not have to stay in the “corral”.

Public Art at Fairfield Hills: Andrea continues to try to find a “canvas” i.e. a public location, for artist Lindsay Fuori to create a mural. The best location seems to be the utility building at the dog park. Brian Engle, a 12/14 father, had said in the past that he would like to donate funds to make some structural upgrades to that building, but there have been no developments in quite a while. Amy Mangold at P&R will speak to Mr. Engle to see if there is any progress on his plans. If not, Amy will go ahead with installing a bathroom only and we can move forward with the mural at that location. One member asked if we can consider the Teen Center. Andrea recalled that there was a reason that location would not work but she needs to review her notes. (She has explored many locations.) Andrea also mentioned that Aquilla’s Nest Vineyard in Newtown wants to expand their offerings to include cultural events and art. Perhaps there could be some CAC collaboration there.

Community Center: Jen reported that they are very busy. The next session starts on Monday and will include, among other items, a watercolor class by Nancy Cole, a pottery program by Roberta Ahuja and Valentines for Veterans. The afterschool program is in full swing with bus service from all elementary schools and Reed to the CC. This is a great help to working parents.

Public Participation: None.

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

Poet Laureate: No news.

Scholarships / Grants: Scholarship season is starting. Kitty Latowiki, the coordinator at the high school, has retired so Andrea will find out what the new contact information should be for the scholarship application form.

Municipal Gallery/Showcase/Library Showcase: The library is now open so we could change up the showcase there. Laura will arrange something and Tracy volunteered to set it up

Website: No report.

Other Business: None.

It was moved by Jen Cebry to adjourn, seconded by Susan Kassirer, no discussion, passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.