

Newtown Cultural Arts Commission

Minutes of September 1, 2022 Meeting

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

The Newtown Cultural Arts Commission, held a meeting on Thursday, September 1, 2022 in the Community Center.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Commission Chairman Laura E. Lerman.

Members present: Laura Lerman, Andrea Spencer, Roger Connor, Tracy Van Buskirk, Robert Kaiser, Grant Ossendryver, Robin Lynch

Members absent: Jen Cebry, Daniel Ferreira

Auxiliary members: None

Members of the Public: Ken Lerman, Barbara Snyder.

1. **Minutes:** The August 4 meeting was cancelled. It was moved that the minutes of the July 7, 2022 meeting be approved: moved by Roger, seconded by Robin, passed unanimously.

2. **Officers' Reports:** None

3. **Treasurer's Report:** None

4. **New Commission Website:** Laura had previously sent the Commission the link to the Danbury Music Center website which was designed by Diana Leroy-Schmidt, whose company is Criana in New Milford. The features of this template will allow users to add to the calendar with a password, and outdated calendar entries will automatically disappear. The platform is WordPress with third party hosting at a cost of \$500/yr. The license includes the ability to insert plug-ins, and ongoing support will be very good. Robin asked if we will cancel out existing contracts. This will be investigated. All agreed that the DMC website is very nice and they look forward to our new CAC platform.

The total grant CAC received was \$7,400 and we previously voted to divide it equally between the Festival website and CAC website. The total cost of the CAC website will be \$3,749. Of our \$3,700 grant, we paid Nancy \$500 for the logo, therefore a motion was requested to allocate up to \$500 towards the CAC website. Of note, Barbara Snyder believes she will have approximately \$300 remaining from the CAC website development. Robin moved to allocate the \$500, seconded by Andrea, passed unanimously.

5. **Art Festival:** Quite a few not-for-profits and community organizations have recently asked if they can have tent space at the Festival. Barbara stated that the mission of the CAC is to encourage freedom of artistic expression and that this is an ARTS festival, not a community fair. The quality of the festival has improved over the years as we have refined the image. Barbara believes we should not dilute our purpose with groups unrelated to the arts. Any business can be a paying sponsor and have a banner. Her other point is that this is very late in the game and it will be extremely difficult to change the layout of the festival to accommodate more tents. She also pointed out that how could we choose which organizations to include and which to turn away. Andrea agreed that we should stick to our mission and the difficulty of the late date and the physical layout is very problematic. Ken Lerman pointed out that in software design, at some point you have a “feature freeze” where you stop adding new features and work on perfecting and completing what you have. This is our “feature freeze” point. To start to accommodate new participants would distract us from these very busy last two weeks. Rob suggested that next year we could perhaps have a Community Tent where NFP’s could have literature available. Grant suggested that we ask these groups to participate in a way that promotes the arts, such as a tangible art project. All agreed this was a good idea. Tracy suggested we call it the “Art of Community” tent. It was consensually agreed that Barbara would send out an email to those organizations stating that we cannot accommodate them because of the late date.

6. **Scholarships and Grants:** Andrea reported that the poster for the Festival featuring the winners has been designed and will be printed.

7. **Public Participation:** None.

8. **Community Center:** No update.

11. **Municipal Gallery and Artisans’ Showcase:** Julia Provey will be in the Gallery and local Newtown authors will be featured in the Showcase.

12. **Other Business:** None.

Robin moved and Rob seconded that we adjourn. No discussion. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Tracy Van Buskirk
Secretary
Newtown Cultural Arts Commission