

# Newtown Cultural Arts Commission

## Minutes March 2, 2023

### **The minutes are subject to approval by the Newtown Community Center Commission**

The Newtown Cultural Arts Commission held a meeting on Thursday, March 2, 2023 in the Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by Commission Chairperson Laura E. Lerman.

**Members Present:** Laura Lerman, Jennifer Cebry, Roger Connor, Michael Jehle, Dan Ferreira, Andrea Spencer, Rob Kaiser

**Members Absent:** Robin Lynch, Grant Ossendryver

**Auxiliary Members:** None

**Members of the Public:** None

1. **Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes from February 2, 2023 by Roger Connor, seconded by Michael Jehle. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.
2. **Officer's Reports:** Rob LaPorta has donated a stage light to the Cultural Commission, Rob Kaiser has picked it up. It will be stored in Laura Lerman's garage until their next access to Braun Storage.
3. **Treasurer's Reports:** Jim Cebry is not present. Jennifer Cebry reported the Commission received the remainder of the 2021 CT Humanities grant of \$1,850. They also received their first sponsorship for the Arts Festival in the amount of \$1,500 from Newtown Savings Bank.
4. **Newtown Arts Festival:** Laura Lerman is meeting with Kristine Humber tomorrow to review art and do a press release. Jennifer Cebry reported the vendor application is going out tomorrow. It was put up on the website. There is a list of approximately 80 vendors, about 10 of whom are new vendors. This will be put up on social media on the Arts Festival and Cultural Arts pages and included in the press release and will go on other Facebook pages like the CT Vendor Events page that Jennifer Cebry is a member of. There are new sponsorships coming in from places like Newtown Savings Bank, Savings Bank of Danbury, and Aquila's Nest. The new Creative Director would like to have nightly events leading up to the Arts Festival. Sponsors will be recognized throughout all events. For the Friday night concert, Dan Ferreira is still investigating bands. More local bands tend to attract more people. The Town Hall wants to do Flagpole Radio Saturday night. The next meeting for the Arts Fest will be March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.
5. **Public Participation:** None
6. **Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce:** The Commission discussed joining the Chamber. A motion was made to join the Chamber for its cost of \$100 by Dan Ferreira, seconded by Michael Jehle. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.
7. **Municipal Gallery:** Neil Bittner is in the gallery with his Collage & Oil and Lee Skalkos is in the showcase. Andrea Spencer and Laura Lerman have been working with Michelle Hiscavich from the school district to have a k-12 exhibition with food from the culinary department and music from the music department. The reception will be on April 5<sup>th</sup> from

5:00-7:00 before the Board of Ed meeting and all representatives will be invited, including Senator Murphy.

8. **Scholarships and Grants** The scholarship is out and kids are encouraged to apply. The grant application needs the new logo. The deadline would be May 15, so the recipient would know by the end of May. All Newtown residents are eligible to apply if they have brought the arts to town. Students must be residents but do not have to go to Newtown schools. March 14 has been requested for a meeting date for the t-shirts at 1:00.
9. **2021 & 2022 CT Humanities (CTH) and CT Cultural Fund (CCF) Grant**
10. **Commission Website Update:** Laura Lerman is working on the Arts Festival website. Connecticut Arts Workforce Initiative may provide an intern who can help with website work, social media, and should be given exposure to everything the Committee manages. Logos should all be stored from past sponsors.
11. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn brought by Rob Kaiser and seconded by Dan Ferreira. All in favor. Motion approved unanimously at 7:26pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Holden, Clerk