

# Newtown Cultural Arts Commission

## Minutes May 4, 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, May 4, 2023 in the Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Commission Chairperson Laura E. Lerman.

**Members Present:** Laura Lerman, Jennifer Cebry, Jim Cebry, Roger Connor, Robin Lynch, Michael Jehle, Andrea Spencer, Grant Ossendryver

**Members Absent:** Rob Kaiser, Dan Ferreira

**Auxiliary Members:** None

**Members of the Public:** Michelle Szabo

1. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes from March 2, 2023 by Michael Jehle, seconded by Jennifer Cebry. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.
2. **Officer's Reports:** CT Magazine has a cover story on public arts and murals. Andrea Spencer worked hard to get the mural by the dog park. Julia Sikes-Provey completed a mural sponsored by Cultural Arts who would like to hang it in the Community Center. There will need to be a review of the Community Center's regulations in order to do so.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Jim Cebry reported the Gift Fund has a balance of \$29,358 and the Arts Festival PayPal account has a balance of \$605.
4. **Newtown Arts Festival:** There is a new phone number for the Arts Festival: 203-987-4286. It will not be answered; messages will go to Laura Lerman's email. There is no additional cost. The Arts Festival website last year was done on Divi Builder at a cost of \$2,400 which saved \$1,000 compared to the Culture Commission website that was completed on Beaver Builder and cost \$3,400. Due to issues navigating through Divi Builder, there was discussion on migrating the Arts Festival site to Beaver Builder due to its flexibility and ease of use. The timeframe will be the end of May for completion. The cost does not include hosting. The Culture Commission is paid through November with the hosting site Go daddy. Two payments have been made already, one was for the Culture Commission website and one was for the Arts Festival website. There was discussion of a special meeting to discuss further. Andrea Spencer made a motion for \$3,228 to be spent on the Arts Festival website by the company who built the Culture Commission website. Seconded by Jennifer Cebry. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.
5. **Municipal Gallery/Showcase:** The work of Bonnie Burke is at the Gallery, This Sunday will be a reception from 2-4. Her work will be there until June 18<sup>th</sup>. The potters will be in the showcase through June.
6. **Community Center:** Nothing to report
7. **Scholarships and Grants:** There are currently 2 grant applications that have been received. 3 others were discussed. There are currently 10 applications for scholarships this year. 2 applications were incomplete so they were discontinued. A rubric was created for evaluation of the remaining applications. 6 applicants were interviewed.

Jennifer Cebry made a motion to approve \$5,000 in scholarships to include a 4<sup>th</sup> scholarship. Roger Connor and Robin Lynch seconded simultaneously. Laura Lerman opposed. Motion carried.

8. **Commission Website Update:** When an event is over it can no longer be seen on the calendar. There are 20 events between now and June 4<sup>th</sup>, 8 events this Sunday, 2 book signings, and various music performances occurring. The website also lists venues appropriate for concerts. Laura Lerman will be meeting with the Danbury Music Center to discuss a standard for venues.
9. **Public Participation:** Michelle Szabo discussed issues she has experienced with Go Daddy and recommended Fly Wheel for cost and backups regarding the website. She also expressed her opinion that the criteria for scholarships should be made public.
10. **Other Business:** There is a need to revisit the review process for the scholarship application.
11. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was brought by Michael Jehle and seconded by Jennifer Cebry. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Holden, Clerk