

Newtown Cultural Arts Commission Meeting

Minutes Thursday, May 2, 2024

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 2, 2024, in the Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Commission Chairperson Laura E. Lerman.

Commission Members: Laura Lerman, Jennifer Cebry, Andrea Spencer, Michael Jehle, Roger Connor Jr (absent), Daniel Ferreira (absent), Grant Ossendryver, Robert Kaiser (absent), Robyn Lynch

Auxiliary Members: None

Members of the Public: None

- 1. Acceptance of minutes:** Robyn Lynch made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 4, 2024. Andrea Spencer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 2. Officers' Reports** - Laura Lerman ran into Jeff Capeci, First Selectman, at the end of the David Merrill reception at the Municipal center. She showed him how to turn on and off the lights. Laura Lerman mentioned to him that the Cultural Commission curated and managed the gallery and sent him an email about what we do in the Gallery.
Treasurer's Report - Jennifer Cebry stated that the funding needs to be started for the Arts Festival.
Jennifer Cebry made a motion for an approval for the starting operation funds for the Arts Festival of \$5000 with the option to increase if needed. Michael Jehle seconded the motion. All in favor.
- 3. Possible projects for 2024**
Risk Averse - Michael Jehle stated that Sarah may be interested in helping. Michael will reach out to Sarah. It would be an event leading up to the Arts Festival. Laura Lerman has a list of 20 potential people/groups.
Poet Laureate - Laura Lerman will contact the potential candidate.
- 4. Arts Festival** - next meeting: Thursday, May 9, 2024
- 5. Scholarships/grant**
Scholarships - Andrea Spencer stated that there were six applicants. It has been narrowed down to four applicants. Andrea Spencer made a motion to allocate funds for four scholarships in the amount of \$1250 each. Robyn Lynch seconded the motion. All in favor.
Grants: Update on progress - Spoke to Jane Sharpe; installing signs at garden Queen Street and Glover; inauguration will be May 10 at 11 am. Laura Lerman gave an idea of a QR code with a map. Laura will talk to John.

Application 2024 - The application for the grant is ready. Once the press release is out the applications will be due 6 weeks from that date. The application can be done completely online.

6. Public Participation - none

7. Community Center - Jennifer Cebry stated that the Community Center will be closed on May 3, 2024. After school activities will be held at Reed.

On Saturday there is a sourdough class with the First Selectman. There are 64 enrolled. This is a fundraiser for Faith Food Pantry.

Adult Art Class had low enrollment so it has been canceled.

SSummer Camps are scheduled for all summer.

The Community Center received a \$2000 grant from Eversource. Funds will be allocated on an as-needed application basis.

The Sip and Shop will start on December 6, 2024.

The last Winter Farmers Market is May 14, 2024.

There is a possibility of craft markets in the winter.

Possibility for a drop-off kids program the Friday of the Arts Festival.

8. Municipal Gallery; Artisan's Showcase - David Merrill Show will be in the gallery and showcase through June. Potters were kind enough to cede the showcase to Rhonda for the next two months. Karen Ciccio, festival artist, will be there in July. The Gallery is booked thru May 2025.

9. Commission Website - Now showing activities from May and June.

10. All Other Business - none

Robyn Lynch made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 pm. Jennifer Cebry seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted
Dana Ulibarri, Clerk