

# **Newtown Cultural Arts Commission (NCAC) Strategy Subcommittee**

## **Minutes of November 18, 2019 Meeting**

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE NEXT NCAC STRATEGY  
SUBCOMMITTEE AT ITS NEXT MEETING.

The Newtown Cultural Arts Commission (NCAC) Strategy Subcommittee held a meeting on Monday, November 18, 2019 at the Municipal Center.

**Members present:** Suzanne Lang, Andrea Spencer, Deborra Zukowski, Laura Lerman (Ex Officio)

**Members absent:** None

**Public present:** Barbara Snyder (a member of the Economic Development Commission)

### **1. Call to Order**

Deborra Zukowski called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM

### **2. Public Participation**

Barbara Snyder presented work that she and Christal Preszler (the Deputy Director of Economic and Community Development) are spearheading for the EDC. They have designed flyers for the last 2 quarters that they place at official CT Visitor Information Centers. She also mentioned that she had met with Lisa Scails, executive director of the Western Connecticut Cultural Alliance.

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

Andrea moved to accept the minutes for the October 21 meeting. Suzanne seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **4. Communications**

None

### **5. Old Business**

#### **Subcommittee Mission Statement**

The response to the mission statement from the Newtown Cultural Arts Commission was summarized – i.e., those present at the commission meeting agreed that the proposed mission statement was consistent with the language of the Legislative Council’s ordinance creating the commission. The mission statement will be discussed again, and potentially amended/approved, at the next Cultural Arts Commission meeting.

#### **Process**

*Step 1) Identify and document all groups, organizations, and individuals committed to promoting the arts in Newtown. Learn what they are doing.*

The committee reviewed the lists of artists and arts organizations provided by Laura Lerman and Sue Kassirer (appended below), and augmented it with information from the 2015 Newtown Cultural Arts Commission proposal for to the Newtown Community Center (available on request) and from our own knowledge. The list entries were then codified with one or more of the following: Artist, Venue, Patron, Promoter, Conduit, and Learning Center. Andrea will be creating a working document with all of this work.

*Step 2) Review NCAC history: What has the NCAC done re: prior work on strategic plans? What lessons has the commission learned throughout the years working with artists, arts organizations, and the community?*

The Legislative Ordinance was reviewed, and other historic documents provided on the commission's google drive were identified for this step. We will be reviewing these documents and possibly others for discussion at our next meeting.

*Step 3) Review current activities within the commission to better understand its current goals, benefits, and drawbacks.*

This agenda item was postponed until our next meeting.

## **6. New Business**

None.

## **7. Public Participation**

None

There being no other business, Susanne motioned to adjourn the meeting and Andrea seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM.

# Arts Organizations in Newtown 2019

From Laura Lerman, augmented by Sue Kassirer:

## **Government:**

C H Booth Library Trustees

**C.H. Booth Library** (art exhibits,  
workshops, etc.)

Design Review Board

Parks and Rec Commission

Town & Borough Historian

Borough of Newtown Historic District  
Commission

**Newtown Senior Center** (art classes,dance)

## **Clubs & Organizations**

Connecticut Choral Society

Flagpole Photographers

Friends of CH Library

Friends of Community Center

Friends of Seniors

Garden Club

Harmony On the Sound Chorus

Of Sweet Adelines International

Labor Day Parade Committee

Newtown Choral Society

Newtown Historical Society

Newtown Juggling & Circus Arts Club

Mary Hawley Society

Rocking Roosters Dance Club

Society of Creative Arts Of

Newtown (SCAN)

Stray Cats

**The Flagpole Barn**

Town & Country Garden Club Of Newtown

Town Players Inc/Newtown

### **Commercial Entities**

Malenkee Ballet Repertoire CO

Newtown Center of Classical Ballet &  
Voice

Lathrop School of Dance

Dance, etc., Lisa Menilli

Flagpole Radio Café

Art & Frame Gallery (they have ongoing  
art exhibits in addition to being a  
frame shop)

Sabrina's Encore Productions

Newtown Community Center (art programs)

Rock Elite Music Academy

Suzuki Music School

# Annotated List of Cultural Organizations, Newtown.

Laura E. Lerman

## **Arts Organizations in Newtown 2019**

(note: Though most organizations in this list are run and manned by volunteers, they also do pay for printing. Musical organizations often pay for musicians and soloists at concerts as appropriate.)

### **Government:**

**C H Booth Library Trustees: all members of the Board are Volunteers**

**Design Review Board;** members are volunteers

**Newtown Cultural Arts Commission:** members are volunteers

**Parks and Rec Commission:** members are volunteers

**Town & Borough Historian**

Unpaid volunteer

**Borough of Newtown Historic District Commission:** all volunteers; they ensure that changes to houses within the Historic District adhere to historically appropriate architectural standards (note: Not every building within the geographic historic district is part of the Historic District. Participation within the historic district is voluntary. Once you decide to join, membership cannot be withdrawn.)

### **Clubs & Organizations**

**Connecticut Choral Society;** employs director; members design posters and program; director writes the program notes

**Flagpole Photographers** (<http://www.flagpolephotographers.com/events/>)

Run by volunteers;

Runs free workshops by professional and amateur photographers at no cost; applied for and got grants to extend the hanging space in the Municipal Center Gallery;

Hosts a 250 piece photography show during November & December at the Municipal Center; show is hung by professionals

**Friends of CH Library** (<http://www.boothbooksale.org/>)

Run entirely by volunteers; raises more than \$100,000 per year which funds activities (both cultural and non-cultural) at the Library; Yearly book sale enables attendees to buy books at bargain prices.

Friends of Community Center: newly formed

**Friends of Seniors;** (<http://friendsofnewtownseniors.org/>)

Run entirely by volunteers; runs cultural and non-cultural events; applied for and received a grant to engage an artist to lead seniors in creating mosaic mural at the Senior Center

#### **Garden Club**

#### **Harmony On the Sound Chorus**

#### **Of Sweet Adelines International**

**Labor Day Parade Committee;** run entirely by volunteers; raises money for Labor Day Parade that includes amateur and professional bands and dance troupes; enables cultural organizations to recruit members

**Newtown Choral Society:** employs accompanist and director; enables members (singers) to work with professionals; member designs tickets and posters; professional (volunteer) write program; professional (volunteer) creates and runs website; pays for musicians and soloists at concerts as appropriate.

**Newtown Historical Society;** run by volunteers; supports house and presents programs throughout the year; Town Historian is a volunteer.

#### **Newtown Juggling & Circus Arts Club**

#### **Mary Hawley Society**

#### **Rocking Roosters Dance Club**

**Someday Cinema:** run by a volunteer; shows classic films and raises money to improve the architecturally significant Town Hall

**Society of Creative Arts Of Newtown (SCAN);** (<https://www.scanart.org/>) run by volunteers; sponsors low cost classes and sketch workshops; presents free workshops twice a month; sponsors art shows

#### **Town & Country Garden Club Of Newtown**

#### **Town Players Inc/Newtown**

Run primarily by volunteers. Have queried the organization for more info.

#### **Commercial Entities**

#### **Malenkee Ballet Repertoire CO**

#### **Newtown Center of Classical Ballet & Voice**

#### **Lathrop School of Dance**

#### **Dance, etc., Lisa Menilli**