

Newtown Cultural Arts Commission

Minutes February 1, 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, February 1, 2024, in the Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Commission Chairperson Laura E. Lerman.

Members Present: Laura Lerman, Andrea Spencer, Jennifer Cebry, Michael Jehle, Roger Connor, Dan Ferreira, Grant Ossendryver

Members Absent: Jim Cebry, Terry Sagedy, Linda Parsloe, Dina Sabia, Rob Kaiser, Robyn Lynch

Auxiliary Members: None

Members of the Public: None

1. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes from January 4, 2024, by Andrea Spencer, 2nd approved by Roger Connor. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.
2. **Officer's Reports:**
Treasurer's Report: Accounts remain the same as last month.
It was suggested that the Commission perform an economic impact study on the Arts Festival.
3. **SCAN:**
SCAN would like to recognize organizations in Newtown that support them and would like to give an award in the name of the Newtown Cultural Arts Commission.
4. **Possible projects for 2024**
 - a. **Risk A Verse:** It used to be on National Poetry Day, but may be scheduled the week before the festival. Someone is needed to manage it.
 - b. **Poet Laureat:** The First Selectman would welcome the Commission's recommendation. Lauren Clifford read the poem at the inauguration. It is recommended there be an application process for this.
 - c. **Library poetry walk:** The Library has received a grant from the Friends of the Library for a poetry walk. People are encouraged to submit original poetry to the library. Poems will go on signs along the pathway at Fairfield Hills. Ms. Lerman is advertising this on social media.
 - d. **Health Fair 2024:** Ms. Lerman has reached out to Maureen Schaedler, head of the Health District.
 - e. **Jazz Band Jam Festival:** A suggestion was made for a Jazz Band Jam Festival.

5. Arts Festival

- a. T-shirts- The design for t-shirts is progressing; examples were shown.
- b. 2024 Festival Dates: September 20-22
- c. If it rains on Friday night, Edmond Town Hall will be used.
- d. There will be a change of verbiage from “rain or shine” to “weather permitting”
- e. The Commission is looking into event insurance. There are no good indoor options for the 70 vendors that are anticipated.
- f. There is difficulty getting volunteers to help with the Festival; a volunteer coordinator is needed, tasks need to be specific, utilize Sign Up Genius
- g. The NHS Art Honor Society may work in the “Make It and Take It” booth.

6. Scholarships/Grants:

The scholarship application has been submitted to the high school. The school utilizes Padlet to list all scholarships by the month they are due. Electronic submissions seem to work but there is a problem with the pdf link. The Career Center is trying to get it working. There have not been any applications received. The grant process has been revised through the town to include the name of the vendor.

7. Public Participation: none

8. Municipal Gallery; Artisan’s Showcase:

SCAN has graciously agreed to keep their show up through March 22.
The K-12 show will run April 1- 12; the David Merrill show will run April 22-May 31.

9. Community Center:

Heart Month is starting today. Nuvance Health is coming in February 24 to do a Lunch ‘N Learn on heart healthy topics. There will be blood pressure checks a couple of times throughout the month. Valentine’s Yoga is on the calendar as well as a sushi rolling class.

10. Commission Website:

Ms. Lerman has been expanding the reach of the calendar. Every Thursday, weekend Arts events are highlighted. The calendar is located on Ms. Lerman’s personal Facebook; the Commission Facebook, Neighbor Neighbors United and the Newtown Choral Society.

11. All Other Business- The first meeting of the Arts Festival will be in March.

12. There was a motion to adjourn made by Dan Ferreira, and 2nd approved by Jennifer Cebry. All in favor. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:56pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Holden, Clerk