

North Kingstown Arts Council

Wednesday, March 3, 2021 Minutes (Original meeting date was March 10, 2021)

Members Present: Nancy Whyte Sherman - Chairperson, James Halley – Vice Chairperson, Eleanor Acton, Gail Shawn Burda - Recording Secretary, Gerry Grabowski, Nora Hall, Robert Martone, Kathleen McCarthy, Scott Monroe, Deborah Sabo, Donna Vanderbeck

Excused Absents:

Un-Excused Absents: Francine Crete

Zoom meeting hosted by Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs, Recreation Director

Attendees: Ricky Thompson - resident of North Kingstown

1. **Call to order:** Nancy Whyte Sherman – Chairperson, called the Meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
2. **Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-6©** Notice of this meeting has been posted on the Secretary of State's website.
3. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - Motion to approve February 10, 2021 Minutes as written made by Gerry Grabowski, seconded by Eleanor Acton. Unanimous approval.
4. **Guests:**
 - a) Kim Page Town Council Member working on the Memorial Committee
 - b) Nancy Raffi – Chairperson NK COVID Memorial Project
 - c) Lew Cahoone – Tuesday Night Concert Series
5. **Financial Items:**
 - a) \$31,529.76 left in account, \$22,908 incumbered, which includes the \$1,500 from Paul Baily's Dodge and \$500 from the VFW carried over from the 2020 sponsorships of the Tuesday Night Concert Series.
 - b) Nancy Whyte Sherman said she only asked the Town for \$5,000 this year, we still had last year's money since we were unable to offer these concerts, due to the Covid virus restrictions.
 - c) **Motion to accept** the Financial report made by Gerry Grabowski, seconded by James Halley. Unanimous approval.
6. **Publicity/Website:**
 - a) Our Face book page is posting upcoming events: online presentation of Quilts as Art showing March 11, 2021 sign up now at our website & Rocky Ruggiero's online presentation of The Statue of David showing on April 8, 2021.
 - a) Scott Monroe, when asked if he was ready to have us hire someone to take over setting up the process for people to be able to register on our website, Scott said that he was getting busier and didn't have the expertise to oversee the registrations. That being the case Nancy Whyte Sherman said that she would contact our web designer Patrick Malone, to find out if he would take that on and at what cost to us.
 - b) Martha Sielman, presenter of the History of the Art Quilt Movement in America - #80388, has been approached by the *Independent* to be interviewed about the above presentation. Martha would like photographs of upcoming North Kingstown events that she could highlight on her Quilt Zoom presentation.

7. Project Proposals:

- a) NK COVID Memorial Project - #80391 Liaison Kathleen McCarthy & Gerry Grabowski
- Nancy Raffi explained to the Arts Committee where the NK COVID Memorial Project Committee is with their plans:
 - They were hoping to place the Memorial next to the far side of the NK Community Center. They are now looking at the area around the old Town Hall Building located adjacent to the playground on the old *Wickford Elementary School* grounds, facing Boone Street.
 - A media blitz, of press releases, will go out describing how we would like to honor those residents of North Kingstown lost to the COVID 19 virus and would anyone who has lost a family member or friend consider sharing a photo of this person, their name, date departed and some information about them. Nancy Raffi already let the *Wickford Way* and *Boston Globe* know of our plans. (There will be a sign where people can list their loss of non-NK residents).
 - This information will be placed on a Sunbrella fabric (it is sun resistant fabric), which will have the above information sewn on and there will be 2 flag making events held at the Community Center. Participation is limited to 6 people at a time. (this work needs to be started by the end of March). Flags will be hung on a garden flag size frame. There will be no cost to the families, who will be invited to a ceremony the beginning of June 2021. However, there will be the opportunity for the community to donate \$20 per flag to help defray the cost, so the Arts Council may be reimbursed for some of their donation.
 - The plan is to have the Memorial up until December and we are looking forward to a permanent memorial in the future.
 - Volunteers will be making flower bombs – paper flowers, with seeds in them, for attendees of the ceremony to take home and plant as a remembrance for those lost to the virus.
 - **Motion to approve** the asking amount of \$1,500 made by James Halley, seconded by Gerry Grabowski. Unanimous approval.
- b) Thursday Night Family Concert Series – #80392 Liaisons: Gerry Grabowski & Nancy Whyte Sherman
- Thursday Night Family Concert Series is scheduled to run July 20th – August 19, 2021. Nancy Whyte Sherman will ask Dave's if they will help sponsor again (They gave \$1,500 in the past). An extra night will be added, should they choose to sponsor.
 - **Motion to approve** the asking amount of \$2,925 made by James Halley, seconded by Eleanor Acton. Unanimous approval.

8. Final Funding Forms:

- a) Rocky Ruggiero's presentation of: "Brunelleschi and the Dome of Florence Cathedral" was well received according to Robert Martone, though it is difficult getting feedback from a virtual presentation. NKAC Committee Member Gail Shawn Burda said that both she and her husband really enjoyed the information and enjoyable way that Rocky presented it, both are looking forward to his presentation on the Statue of David.
- **Motion to release** the payment in the amount of \$250.00 made by James Halley, seconded by Eleanor Acton. Unanimous approval.

9. Old Business:

- a) Artistically Speaking Committee Update – History of the Art Quilt in America Zoom presentation scheduled for March 11, 2021 at 5:30 pm and Dr. Rocky Ruggiero's Zoom presentation, on the Statue of David, is scheduled for April 8, 2021.
- b) Discussion of support for website management of reservations for events.
 - Scott Monroe, when asked again, said he was getting busier and didn't have the expertise to oversee the registrations, so Nancy Whyte Sherman said that she would contact our web designer Patrick Malone to find out if he would take that on and at what cost to us.
- c) "Now That's Funny" starring Bob Colonna and friends filming and Zoom presentation is on hold due to COVID, while cast awaits vaccination
 - Kathleen McCarthy let us know that the drummer (who emphasized the end of a joke on his drums), passed today of the COVID virus, their group was saddened and shocked by the news.
 - The remainder of the group has been vaccinated and will do a live performance, which will be less costly since a videographer will not be needed.
 - They are looking for a venue since the schools are not renting out their auditoriums. Chelsey Dumas-Gibb mentioned that schools aren't even allowing the Rec. Department to use their facilities for a Summer drama program.
- d) ArtVenture update
 - The ArtVenture artist registration form will be posted to the NKAC website in a few days.
- e) Southeast New England Film, Music and Arts Festival are also looking for a venue for their awards ceremony.

10. New Business:

- a) Tuesday Night Concert Series: Lew Cahoone couldn't log on, so Recreation Director, Chelsey Dumas-Gibb called him and communicated his responses to the Committee.
 - The Block Booking meeting only allows Chelsey to represent us, so Nancy Whyte Sherman will not be able to attend. Lew Cahoone would like to keep to the same entertainment as was scheduled for the 2020 season. More than likely the entertainers from the past will be contacted to perform, those that draw a big crowd will be booked at the end of the series, in case the State is allowed to expand the attendance numbers, at gatherings, by that time.
 - Chelsey Dumas-Gibb said that even for rain on a concert day she would be shocked if a school would allow a concert to be moved inside.
 - There needs to be a Covid clause in the contracts this year, as last year, in case we can't have concerts we won't be held accountable for payment to the entertainers.
 - Rec. attendants will again be hired to help at the concerts and Dianna, the same shuttle bus driver as last time, will drive the bus, if a shuttle is safely permitted.
 - Lew will have a Project Proposal ready for our April Arts Council meeting.

11. Correspondence:

- Nancy Whyte Sherman is trying to obtain permission to use the image of the painting: *Rock in the Bay* painted in 1908 by William Glacken, New York Impressionist painter (March 13, 1870 - May 22, 1938), while staying at the Beachwood House during a get-together of Artists expressing their talents and networking (Before it was called networking). Held at the Town Beach (Before it was the Town Beach), for use on a marker, with the same design set up as the markers in Wickford.
- Nancy is waiting to hear back from New Jersey State Museum who owns the painting.
- The marker would give the history of the grand hotels at the Town Beach site and the image of the painting on this plaque would be wonderful, as it shows what people were wearing at the time.
- NKAC Member Debbie Sabo and Town Historian Tim Cranston are working on this project.
- North Kingstown Free Library is offering to host virtual meetings if needed.
- James Halley brought up the subject of the Snowflake parade to Nancy Raffi and a talk of moving the location ensued. This will be an ongoing discussion.

12. Adjournment: Nancy Whyte Sherman, Chairperson called for a Motion to Adjourn. Motion made at 8:19 pm by Gerry Grabowski, seconded by James Halley. Unanimous approval.

The Next Scheduled NKAC Meeting will be on April 14, 2021

Respectfully submitted by,

Gail Shawn Burda

Recording Secretary

