

North Kingstown Arts Council

Wednesday, May 12, 2021 Minutes

Members Present: Nancy Whyte Sherman - Chairperson, James Halley – Vice Chairperson, Eleanor Acton, Gail Shawn Burda - Recording Secretary, Fran Crete, Gerry Grabowski, Kathleen McCarthy, Deborah Sabo, Scott Monroe.

Excused Absences: Donna Vanderbeck, Robert Martone

Un-Excused Absences: Nora Hall

Attendees: Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs, NK Recreation Director and our *Zoom* host

1. **Call to order:** Nancy Whyte Sherman – Chairperson, called the Meeting to order at 7:04 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 – April 2021:**
 - Motion to approve April 14, 2021 Minutes, as written, made by Eleanor Acton, seconded by Deborah Sabo. Unanimous approval.
4. **Guests:** None
5. **Financial Items:**
 - a) FY 22 Budget amount we’ll be receiving \$4,000 from the Town.
 - Chairperson, Nancy Whyte Sherman informed us that our Account with the Town had \$21,927 according to Chelsey Demas-Gibbs, Recreation Department Director and our liaison and Nancy said that \$18,539 of it was encumbered.
 - Gail Shawn Burda mentioned that, with only \$3,388 left and the earliest we would receive the money from the Town being July, which meant we would have to be very careful with approving Project Proposals the next few months.
 - Nancy said that often we get low in funds, but it all works out. She said that we didn’t have any Project Proposals at the moment, but agreed that we would address them when the time came.
 - Motion to accept the Financial Report, as given, made by Gerry Grabowski, seconded by James Halley. Unanimous approval.
6. **Publicity/Website:**
 - Scott Monroe Committee Member and our webmaster said they he appreciated not only the suggested updates/corrections to the Arts Council website, but also really appreciated it when the changes were spelled out and he only needed to proof the suggestions.
 - Scott asked if Patrick Malone, our current website developer was on retainer. He is not, Patrick just received a fee for developing the *ArtVenture* pages showing artists and their works by clicking on their names. Scott suggested that Patrick be kept on for maintenance. Nancy mentioned that there was still some money left of the \$600 allotted for *ArtVenture* updates to our website, she will contact Patrick tomorrow.

- Nancy Whyte Sherman let us know that the bridge to Wilson Park has been finished ahead of schedule, at Updike Street behind the liquor store. It is a lovely hike.
- Debbie Sabo suggested that we post photos of the art findings to *Wickford Way Neighborhood Magazine*, Nancy Whyte Sherman thought that to be a great idea.

7. Projects Proposals: None

8. Final Funding Forms:

a) Johnny Appleseed

- Chelsey forwarded photos of the performance. Not as many children participated, but that gave those there more acting time. Fifteen children participated and they appeared quite happy to be in the program.
- The student director did a fine job and asked to help out on other projects during the Summer.
- The North Kingstown Recreation Department won the 2020 “Distinguished Recreation Department of the Year” award. Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs, North Kingstown Recreation Department Director won the *Walter Henry Award* for 2020 sponsored by the *Rhode Island Recreation and Parks Association*. Chelsey was recognized for all her hard work running programs during Covid. The awards were received in 2021.
- Motion to approve the Final Funding payment of \$650 to the NK Recreation Department, made by Gerry Grabowski, seconded by Deborah Sabo. Unanimous approval.

b) Dr. Rocky Ruggiero – Il Gigante: Michelangelo and the Statue of David. Liaison: Eleanor Acton

- Another well received lecture video (over 200 log-ins), the third of his series offered through the Artistically Speaking Committee *Zoom* presentation.
- The presentation(s) objective was to promote understanding and appreciation of art. Dr. Ruggiero presents art history in an entertaining way and his Q&A at the end of the videos “reveals the audience’s interest and enthusiasm”.
- As mentioned before, the Artistically Speaking, once indoor restrictions due to the pandemic are eased, feel it would be desirable to arrange an in-person presentation, that could still be open to *Zoom* attendees.
- Gail Shawn Burda appreciates the free tour videos offered by Dr. Rocky Ruggiero, along with the “paid for” lectures.
- Motion to release payment of \$250 to Rocky, made by Gerry Grabowski, seconded by James Halley. Unanimous approval.

9. Old Business: Nancy Whyte Sherman wanted to thank the *ArtVenture* Committee Members for their hard work and to let them know how much she appreciated all that was done to make the event successful.

- Nancy talked with Town Historian, Tim Cranston, about the Town Beach marker explaining its history and was told that his splash-pad of adult art work will go to jury in June and since the Wickford Association Gallery Director, Catherine Gagnon, is going on vacation June 12th, the decisions will be made before she leaves. The Art Teachers are jurying the student’s artwork.
- Nancy still has not received permission from the *New Jersey Art Museum* in New Jersey, to use the image of the painting of what is now NK Town Beach, painted during the epic arrival of artists and poets, of the era, to stay at the *Beachwood House* and share their talents. A prelude to today’s networking.

- Kathleen McCarthy reminded us that the 2021 Film Festival Awards group is still in need of a venue, for their October 2021 presentation.
- Kathleen McCarthy gave us an update on Bob Colona now 80 years old, of “Now That’s Funny” starring Bob Colonna and friends, is progressing from his stroke, though is not verbal. She visits him, which seems to perk him up.

10. New Business:

- Since the *Wickford Art Festival* is being held at *Wilson Park*, Nancy Raffi mentioned to Nancy Whyte Sherman, that perhaps the *Snowflake Festival* (which was hoping to be held in Wickford, but not received well by merchants), could also be allowed to use that venue this December. They are going to approach the Town with this suggestion.

11. Correspondence: None

12. Adjournment: Nancy Whyte Sherman, Chairperson called for a Motion to Adjourn. Motion to adjourn at 7:28 pm made by Gerry Grabowski, seconded by James Halley. Unanimous approval.

The Next Scheduled NKAC Meeting will be on June 9, 2021 at 7 pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Gail Shawn Burda

Recording Secretary