

Members Present: Nancy Whyte Sherman - Chairperson, James Halley - Vice-Chairperson, Eleanor Acton, Gail Shawn Burda – Co- Recording Secretary, Francine Crete, Gerry Grabowski, Nora Hall, Kathleen McCarthy, Paul Pichette, Donna Vanderbeck

Excused Member Absences: Susan Hannel, Scott Monroe, Robert Martone.

Un-excused Member Absences: None

Attendees: Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs, Recreation Director, Rose Pichette, Staff Liaison, Mary Brimer, Town Council Liaison

1. Call to order: 7:01 pm by Chairperson Nancy Sherman

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: June 10, 2020 Minutes, Gail Shawn Burda asked that the June Minutes reflect that she abstained from voting since she was not present for the meeting. Upon correction of Minutes, the vote was to unanimously approve.

4. Guests:

a. Lew Cahoon never connected to the Meeting.

b. Yarrow Thorne and Nick Platzer attended from *The Avenue*. This was Yarrows second presentation before the Arts Council to outline how he would like to bring artist’s work to the buildings in Wickford. He will absorb all costs, but Jim Halley suggested that he submit a Proposal to us for the artists’ fees, since we have covered similar costs in the past for others.

There was a lengthy presentation and discussion with Nora being concerned with the artists’ works blending well with the historic village. Yarrow mentioned the Kayak Center wall, over the water, being painted first and a side of the *Sew-Op Shop* building, before tackling the crosswalk leading to the old *St. Paul’s Church* and the side of the *Gregory Building*. Yarrow mentioned that if there was a problem with the finished works of art, they would return the building walls back to their original color. Mary Brimer agreed with starting small and letting the public get use to the privately owned building’s art before suggesting the bigger projects, as some people are not on board with even the crosswalk. Gail Shawn Burda asked that examples of the artists’ work be e-mailed to the Art’s Council.

- Last time Yarrow visited us it was noted that Post Road has some less than attractive light boxes that also need sprucing-up and was again mentioned this evening.
- Artist Jenelle will donate time to paint wings on a wall where people can take selfies. Wickford would be the third in Rhode Island to have such a painting.
- The paintings would be changed yearly before the *Wickford Art Festival*.
- Yarrow said that a Town Council donation toward this venture would be appreciated, the cost is from \$500 to \$1,000 for insurance and Artist’s fees. Our Town Manager said to go before the Town Council with a proposal. Nancy Whyte Sherman, Mary Brimer and Donna Vanderbeck will be meeting with Nicole LaFontaine - Planning Director and Don Peck - Building Official, Code Enforcement, for input.

5. Financial Items: None

6. Publicity/Website Report: Gerry will work with Scott Monroe to get our website to perform better.

7. Project Proposals:

a. Tuesday Night Concert Series 2020 #80375.

1. Chairperson Nancy Sherman let us know that the Town Manager would not approve of spraying the Town Beach grass to separate concertgoers, or expect us to enforce mask wearing, so Nancy asked if the Committee would like to cancel this year's Tuesday Night Concerts due to the virus, particularly since entertainers such as *Brass Attack* draws such a large turn-out. Motion to cancel this year's Tuesday Night Concerts made by Gerry Grabowski and seconded by James Halley was unanimously approved. Since *Paul Bailey's Auto Dealership* has donated \$1,500 and the *Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)* already donated \$500 each they will be contacted to find out if they would like their donations to go toward the Thursday Night Concerts, to be used for next year's Tuesday Night Concert series or be returned.

b. Thursday Night Children's Concerts #80376 to go on as scheduled, was a motion made by Gerry Grabowski and seconded by Nancy Sherman. Approved by all except Gail who voted to cancel. Gail received assurance that if the concertgoers do not comply with the safety measurers the series will be cancelled.

- For the first time a police officer will be hired to be at the Thursday Night Concert series for \$57.64 per hour. Entertainment is \$3,941. Dave's Market donated \$1,500. Changes to the proposal were approved.

c. Poetry & Art Book 2020 #80379

1. The Wickford Art Association's Gallery Director, Catherine Gagnon, requested \$1,000 to help defray the cost of producing the Poetry & Art books. They had 142 entries. Unfortunately, the new Director got hacked when she logged-in to fill out the Project Proposal form on our website. Patrick Malone, our web designer, was able to fix the problem. A motion to approve the Art Association's request was made by Gerry Grabowski, seconded by Gail Shawn Burda and was unanimously approved.

8. Final Funding: None

9. Old Business: None

10. New Business: Mary Brimer was letting the Arts Council know that she is meeting with Reps. Bob Craven and Julie Casmiro on Friday morning June 10, 2020 and Joey Vento, President of the NKHS Student Union, will be in attendance to provide input on behalf of Gen Z. The purpose of this meeting is to draft proposed legislation that will establish a process by which monuments are removed and sold/transferred.

- Mary's goal is that if a monument is state owned, that a vote goes before the House and Senate for approval. If a monument is municipally owned, the removal and sale/transfer should be a ballot question. Proceeds should be restricted to 50% to the Arts and 50% to Historic Preservation. She does not want monuments being eyeballed as opportunities to fetch a price at auction to fill budget deficits.
- Secondly Reps. Bob Craven and Julie Casmiro would like to hear from people on their feelings about changing the state name. They would like to see this question go on a ballot. If you agree or disagree, please take a moment to email them: rep-craven@rilegislature.gov; rep-casmiro@rilegislature.gov

11. Correspondence: New Town requirement: members of a committee, council, etc. must be current with Town taxes to be elected, appointed, etc.

12. Adjournment: Chairperson, Nancy Whyte Sherman adjourned the meeting at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted by, Gail Shawn Burda, Co-Recording Secretary