

North Kingstown Arts Council

Wednesday, September 9, 2020 Minutes

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, Paul Pichette, Donna Vanderbeck

Excused Member Absence: Francine Crete

Liaisons: Rose Pichette, Staff Liaison. Rose logged us on to our Zoom meeting, in Chelsey's absence.

Excused Liaison Absence: Mary Brimer, Town Council Liaison

1. **Call to order:** Nancy Whyte Sherman – Chairperson opened the meeting at 7:00 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 - Nora Hall, Seconded by - Donna Vanderbeck. Unanimously approved.

- Per the murals in Town that Yarrow Thorne from *The Avenue Concept* is proposing, from our last month's meeting, Nancy Sherman added that she has since talked with Nicole LaFontaine - Director of Planning & Development for the Town, who told her that murals are considered signs and are passed by the Wickford Design Committee or Wickford Overlay, then to the Sign Committee. Nicole suggested that the abutters be notified out of courtesy.

4. **Guests – Public Comment:**

a. Dr. Ruggiero did not attend. Robert Martone gave an overview of Dr. Ruggiero's background and online presentation for the Providence Art Club.

b. Ricky Thompson was in attendance.

5. **Financial Items:** Nancy Whyte Sherman mentioned that Gail Shawn Burda had brought up funding questions since some amounts were incorrectly shown in the report.

- After Gail listed her questions and corrections, the Thursday Family Concert Series report was tabled to our next meeting, so Nancy can talk with Chelsey and go over the changes needed to the report.
- Motion to approve the Financial Report, excluding the Thursday Night Family Concerts' report, was made by James Halley, seconded by Gerry Grabowski. Unanimously approved.

6. **Publicity/Website Report:** Scott Monroe has been making website modifications and updates, while Gerry Grabowski has been posting to our Face Book page.

- Scott mentioned that he sent out sections of the Website for review, corrections and suggestions to his committee (volunteers: Gerry Grabowski and Gail Shawn Burda) and while Scott is able to make changes to our Website he prefers direction from the Website Committee and confirmation from the Arts Council members before pursuing. He is awaiting the updates from his Committee.

7. **Project Proposals:** None

8. **Final Funding:** None

9. **Old Business:** Donna Vanderbeck contacted Emily Goodman, at the North Kingstown Free Library, to find out if the school children's artwork could be hung, since the Library was now open, but Emily said it was not the right time. Gail Shawn Burda suggested hanging them in the Town Hall and/or posting them on our website, so the students could view their art should they be away from the state. Offers to help hang the art pieces were made.

10. **New Business:**

a. Progress report by our Arts Appreciation Committee on ideas:

- Hire presenters to expand art appreciation with a series of art programs on art history and art purpose.
- Visual shows are being offered by other venues, with safety being an issue. Seems as though most of the Council Members were leaning in that direction, which would allow our offerings not to be contingent on the ever-changing "gathering rules" set forth by our Governor. The *Wickford Art Association Gallery* was mentioned as a venue, in the future, as well as the *North Kingstown Free Library*.
- Robert Martone talked about Dr. Ruggerio's many achievements: from his art lectures, being on several TV programs sharing his expertise as an art historian, etc., would be a good presenter. Robert mentioned that this is the year of sound sponsored by technical groups. Nancy Whyte Sherman mentioned Tom Sgouros, a professional story teller and actor that would be contacted regarding a project he was working on at *Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)*, involving sound and the blind/visually impaired.
- Nora doesn't want the presenters to work for free, so the Committee would like a budget. Basically, there would be a *Project Proposal* sent in for each presentation. The Committee wanted to get a feel from the other Arts Council Members, as to the direction the Arts Appreciation Committee would like to go. The Arts Council Members showed enthusiasm for the Committee's proposed direction and Nora is thrilled with the Arts Appreciation Committee members and foresees exciting recommendation's coming out of their get-togethers.
- Eleanor Acton suggested getting sponsors for the presentations and having High School students participate.
- Nancy Whyte Sherman told us that Janice Strain, NK High School Art Teacher, was able to establish an Art Gallery at our High School and perhaps that project could be videoed and featured in the series in conjunction with a speaker.
- The Art Appreciation Committee looks forward to ideas from each and every one of us, so they would like the "Sharing of Art News" be an item added to our agenda.

11. **Correspondence:** None

12. **Adjournment:** Chairperson, Nancy Whyte Sherman adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gail Shawn Burda

Recording Secretary