

North Kingstown Arts Council

Wednesday, October 14, 2020 Minutes

Members Present: Nancy Whyte Sherman - Chairperson, James Halley - Vice-Chairperson, Eleanor Acton, Gail Shawn Burda - Recording Secretary, Francine Crete, Gerry Grabowski, Nora Hall, Robert Martone, Paul Pichette, Deborah Sabo (New Member).

Excused Member Absences: Kathleen McCarthy, Scott Monroe and Donna Vanderbeck

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

1. **Call to order:** 7:00 pm by Chairperson Nancy Whyte 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:** Motion to approve Minutes as written made by James Halley, seconded by Gerry Grabowski. Unanimous approval.

A moment was taken to welcome and hear about our newest member, Deborah Sabo and for each of us to introduce ourselves and our background to her.

4. **Guests:**

a) Catherine Gagnon, Gallery Director *Wickford Art Association*, updated us on how successful their Poetry and Art Program #80379 was, in spite of the virus restrictions. The event was spread over three days for the safety of visitors. Most of the eighty-four artists and poets attended.

- In addition to the event there is a limited-edition, full color, professionally designed book cataloging the exhibit, to be published.
- The seven previous Poetry & Art books (2013 to 2019), have been accepted into The *Poets House* library in New York City, one of the premiere poetry libraries in the country and this 2020 book will be a part of their library collection and will be on special display at the *Poets House* in the fall.

b) Catherine wanted to be sure that the *North Kingstown Arts Council* knows how truly grateful the *Wickford Art Association* is to the Council, for helping to sponsor this event and to remind everyone that the exhibit will be displayed through this Sunday, October 18, 2020 from noon to 3 pm.

Motion to approve Final Funding made by James Halley, seconded by Paul Pichette. Unanimous approval.

5. **Financial Items:** Nancy Whyte Sherman – Chairperson informed us that the Town's donation for 2020 of \$19,000 has been received. Our account balance is: \$33,696.76.

- The *Empty Bowls* event ended up costing \$600, not \$900, so our funds are incumbered for \$4,000.

Motion to approve the report made by James Halley, seconded by Gerry Grabowski. Unanimous approval.

6. **Publicity/Website Report:** Scott Monroe could not attend this meeting.

- A reminder: please include photographs of your event with your Final Funding Report.

- Updating our website is ongoing by Gerry Grabowski and Gail Shawn Burda as well as input from Nancy Whyte Sherman.

7. Project Proposals:

a) Art Appreciation Program #80381 & #80382 – two Virtual Educational Experiences both being presented by Dr. Rocky Ruggiero:

- One on Michelangelo and the Statue of David
- One on Brunelleschi & the Dome of Florence Cathedral
- There are still scheduling issues to be worked out, but the cost of the Speaker's fee will be \$250 for each presentation (Dr. Ruggiero generally receives \$600 for his lectures), with an additional \$50 for each event's advertising.
- Robert Martone again shared Dr. Ruggiero's bio from our last meeting.
- Gail Shawn Burda mentioned that she thought the presentations were to be broader so as to encourage more people to view the presentations, such as an introduction to sculpturing or drawing, with demonstrations rather than a concentration on a specific sculptor or architectural building. Robert Martone said that these two presentations don't just talk about the dome and David, but do let people know that the techniques used in these pieces of artistic endeavor are the basis for all good pieces. Gail said that the publicity for each presentation needs to be written so it doesn't just sound like a college lecture series, but captures the reader's interest so more people will want to participate.
- Nora Hall reminded us that the purpose of the *North Kingstown Arts Council* is to create an awareness of the arts. The Art Appreciation Committee came up with the phrase: *Artistically Speaking in North Kingstown*, to identify our efforts to offer four presentations a year, as one way to encourage awareness of the arts. There are two more presentation opportunities and the Committee would like suggestions, from us, as to offerings we'd like presented. Please contact Nora with your thoughts, as well as publicity ideas to promote this endeavor.
- Janet Strain's (the Art Department Head at our High School), name again came up to highlight the gallery (being allotted for the student's artwork), as a wonderful place for a presentation, however due to the virus it has not been set up as yet.
- Motion to approve projects #80381 & # 80382, each for \$300, made by James Halley, seconded by Gerry Grabowski. Unanimous approval.

Eleanor Acton is Liaison and will take care of the paperwork and Robert Martone will coordinate the presentations.

8. Final Funding:

a) Heroes Around Heroes – Leadership Rhode Island – Liaison - Gerry Grabowski

- The Council had questions, one being what criteria is used to name a "Hero" among other questions, so Gerry suggested postponing a decision until Melissa Devine can be invited to a Q&A.

The Motion to table the Final Funding vote to our next meeting was made by James Halley, seconded by Gerry Grabowski. Unanimous approval.

b) Poetry & Art - #80379 - Described under Guests.

c) Family Concerts - #80376 Liaison - Gerry Grabowski

- There were five outdoor Family Concerts this year, one more than in years past. There were 50 to 100 attendees due to sparse advertising, intended to keep the attendance numbers down, due to the pandemic.

- The total cost of the concerts was \$3,793.24, we received \$252 in donations and \$1,500 in a sponsorship from *Dave's Markets*. Final cost to the Council \$2,041.24. Costs were up this year due to pandemic protection for our attendees: 6' spacing signs, signs with Covid rules, masks, disinfectants, notebooks, Police presence, etc.
- People followed all the safety rules and were so truly appreciative that the Council provided an uplifting experience for families, seniors, etc., which was so needed.
- Gerry mentioned sending a "Thank You" note to *Dave's Markets* and that our Concert series was the only summer entertaining job our entertainers had this year.

Motion to accept report and release funds made by James Halley, seconded by Eleanor Acton. Unanimous approval.

9. **Old Business:**

a) Robert Martone will speak about Art Appreciation Committee.

- Noted under Project Proposals: a) Art Appreciation Program
- Nora brought up the murals being painted at a Westerly playground and it was determined that the Murals painted on the north side of a building lasted longer than those exposed to the sun. Something to keep in mind if we are allowed to have murals in Wickford.
- Nancy Whyte Sherman sent a photo of the Town's Community Center that could be our first mural attempt at sprucing up a building in Town.

10. **New Business:**

a) Election of Officers – Mandated whenever a new member is elected to the Arts Council.

- Nancy Whyte Sherman elected as Chairperson, James Halley elected as Vice Chairperson, Gail Shawn Burda elected as Recording Secretary.
- Nancy asked Gail if she wanted a Co-Recording Secretary since she had been one and Gail was fine with that and mentioned Gerry Grabowski. Gerry said that she would help, if needed, but did not want to be Co-Recording Secretary.
- Motion to elect made by James Halley, seconded by Deborah Sabo.

11. **Correspondence:**

A poster was sent to Francine Crete from *Cottage Chic Décor* and *Painting Daisies Photography* inviting people to join them for an **Outdoor Vintage Artisan Market** set for Saturday, October 17, 2020 - 10 am to 4 pm (rain date: Sunday, Oct. 18th), location: 221 Shady Lea Road NK. Over fourteen artisans participating.

- Masks must be worn, social distancing practiced. Hand sanitizer available and Covid-19 guidelines will be followed.

12. **Adjournment:** Chairperson Nancy Whyte Sherman called for a motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm.

Motion made by Gerry Grabowski, seconded by James Halley.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Shawn Burda, Recording Secretary