

**East Windsor Arts and Culture
Meeting Minutes
12/12/23
6:30 PM
East Windsor Town Hall**

These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting

I. Call to Order/Attendance

At 6:30 p.m. Debbie Williams called the meeting to order. The commission members present were Sharon Aprea, Bernie Duffy, Christina Posniak, Karen Stavolone, Russell Williams, and Debbie Williams; and community participants included Kristin Blume and Jeff Holcombe; and commission liaison, Sarah Muska.

II. Approval of minutes of 11/14/23 meeting

Debbie inquired if we had a chance to review the minutes from the November 14 meeting. Sharon made a motion to approve the November minutes and Russell seconded this motion concluding that all were in favor.

III. Budget/grants/group status/memberships

a. GTCF grant award: \$4k

We were awarded the GTCF grant. The grant will include funding for two ADA approved picnic tables and Adirondack chairs. Debbie sought approval for the protective spray for the owl located at the Melrose nature walk and other incidentals up to \$40; this was agreed upon by the commission members.

b. CT Office of the Arts grant award: \$1k

Debbie shared a copy of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Debbie has been provided a list of possible grant makers.

c. Ordering more business cards

We decided as a group to table this agenda item until January 2024.

d. Committee to commission- allows for associate members

We discussed as a group whether to stay as a committee or petition to be a commission. A commission establishes the permanence of this group;

we would also not need to ask approval every 18 months. Debbie stated that she thinks we would need to write something to petition to be a commission. The group agreed we should seek to be a commission.

e. Joining EWCC?

Debbie stated that upon inquiring, Jimbo confirmed that we are wrapped into the East Windsor Chamber of Commerce. Jimbo stated the EWCC can pick and choose what they advertise.

Karen shared that Earth Alchemy Pottery Studio has opened up in town and Karen talked up our commission. Karen said that they have a gallery and show local artist pottery. Karen will visit soon and she will report back in January. We should consider including this in our Art Crawl idea that was discussed previously.

f. Potential new members

Kristin Blume confirmed that she has written a petition to join the committee as a non-affiliated member. Debbie confirmed that Melissa LaBelle is the person that receives these petitions. Aanum Kahn is a EW high school student who is interested. Courtney Kataja is also a possible new member.

IV. On-going/recently completed projects update

a. Photography contest photos

Debbie is working on getting new photos. Sharon could reach out to Good Mornings and offer to do the mural. Debbie asked if members were ok with Sharon to explore this and we all agreed that this was a good idea and we did not have any concerns.

b. Owl at Scantic River State Park trailhead

Owl is up at the trailhead. Sign says Barred Owls have dark eyes enabling them to fly and hunt by day, mostly...."

V. New Projects

a. Birdhouses from Home Depot- how do we want to distribute/plans for decorating

Debbie confirmed that a case of 12 birdhouses from Manchester and further stated that the Enfield Home Depot did not want to consider giving us this donation at this time, Debbie will try Bloomfield. The 12

were about \$100. We discussed possible themes for the birdhouses: a culture where the artist comes from or their family comes from, recycled or upcycled materials, most unique materials, honoring East Windsor (e.g.: black and yellow, etc.), representative of the Arts (define the tenant of the arts) Do a few age groups: 12 and under. We make a motion to purchase 12 more. Gift certificate to the new pottery studio or Good mornings. We will display them on Arts and Culture Day. The Park or business.

b. Performance artist event (open mic) at Trolley Museum

Debbie approached Gina and she is completely open to an open mic. The Booster club is also interested. We discussed that it will be family friendly, spoken word, and may include acoustic music. We considered targeting for late summer but not to compete with the Four Country Fair. Kristin suggested that the high school teacher that runs the on-stage program and the band director. We could consider doing an open mic for their April or March opening.

c. Arts and Culture Day 2024 5.18.23

i. Cookie class- recycling theme, price, number

The Cookie lady is very willing to do this; she is open to a recycling theme. For \$450.; she would do them as attendees came to the booth to pick them up, this would be an on-going activity.

ii. Khamp-Paint splatter room?

We hope to hear back from Khamp if he is willing to participate.

iii. Bottle cap project

iv. Picnic table/Julie Bergeron

We considered asking if she would be willing to facilitate participants in painting the picnic table.

v. Food

We discussed having a food truck that serves Jamaican food and we were thinking about having two trucks so we can have more than one option. Karen suggested, Oz N Bones and we also discussed Villa of Lebanon. Christina will check to see if Redstones would be open to a food truck.

vi. Sculpture walk (approved)

Debbie talked about box truck galleries. Kristin talked about decorating tractors around town which could be considered as a form of art called “objet trouve” which is translated as found objects.

vii. Music

We talked about musicians and would like to ask the musicians we had last year, at the same time we would be open to others.

viii. Demonstrations or presentations

Jeff would like to present again; Karen would like to present again. Sharon will think about what to do again. Karen offered the concept of having an installation piece. Bernie would do a painting demo. Jeff offered to have a photography set up.

Karen brought up how we are budgeted for the Arts and Culture day. We spend about \$4k last year.

Kristin asked anything about what is coming up with the schools. Debbie reported that the Middle School is not open to partnering.

Debbie was suggesting that we do an art supplies drive and contribute to a youth center. Debbie offered that we donate to a hospital. Rockville has a donation place that includes art supplies. Sarah is on the youth service bureau so their might be a some opportunities there where we might have room for partnership.

VI. Communication

- a. Matt Conway
- b. GTCF Advisory Board
- c. CT Office of the Arts
- d. Jim Richards
- e. Julie Bergeron
- f. Home Depot
- g. Allison Anderson/Kat McClelland/Barbra Kaminski
- h. Jason Bowsza/Town offices
- i. Gina Alimberti
- j. Cathy at C'Sweets

k. Jim Felice

VII. Public Participation

VIII. Adjourn

Debbie adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christina Posniak, *East Windsor Arts and Culture
Committee Recording Secretary*