

**East Windsor Arts and Culture
Meeting Minutes
2/8/22
6:30 PM via Zoom**

These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting

Commission members in attendance: Bernard “Bernie” Duffy, Erica Giroux, Christina Posniak, Karen Stavolone, Debra “Debbie” Williams, Russell Williams, Albert “Al” Ziegler

Additional Individuals present: Sarah A. Muska (Selectman – Commission Advisor),

I. Call to Order

At 6:30 p.m. the meeting was called to order and Debbie Williams welcomed those in attendance. The note in the 5 Village Voice from the first week in February introducing the establishment of our committee was missing, but Debbie announced that she was assured that it will appear in the May issue when perhaps we will have more to report.

II. Approval of minutes of December 14, 2021, meeting

Russell Williams made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 14, 2021, meeting and this was seconded by Al Zeigler.

III. On-going/Old business

The group discussed the solar festival, logo contest, traffic box wraps, postcards, and the call for Artists/Artist Bank. We have one submission for the logo contest completed by a 10-year-old girl. The deadline for the contest will be extended until the end of March to see if we receive more submissions. We cannot wrap the traffic boxes that are on State Roads. The Historical Society has also given us their permission to use old pictures of East Windsor on traffic box wraps and postcards, which are two of the projects we asked for money for in the 22-23 budget.

We are hoping to move forward on a large mural project as soon as possible. The commission attendees viewed pictures of the space (both sides of the underpass on South Water Street). We discussed in detail including showcasing the flora and fauna indigenous to that part of East Windsor.

In terms of the Artist Bank, we will include anyone from Massachusetts in addition to East Windsor and the local area, especially if the artist is doing something unique.

IV. New Business

The commission discussed the Solar Fest. It was reported that Solar farms are getting some negative press and there was some concern about this. It was also expressed that there will always be some negative to find with any project we may embark upon. We will have a lot of solar fields in East Windsor. Another idea that was offered was to capitalize on the fact that East Windsor was the first place in the Northeast where a dinosaur fossil was found

There was some discussion on alternative social media outreach for this committee and Erica offered to help assist with us connecting through Instagram.

Parks and Recreation has offered six wooden bunnies for our use as selfie boards and/or another use like selling the bunny to businesses to advertise and provide fundraising revenue for the commission. The bunny boards will be displayed on the April 9 Easter parade bunny breakfast.

The Historical Society/Nancy Masters has asked for our "suggestions, help and encouragement" in making their property an event space. We understand this as an invitation for us to use it when it's completely renovated.

V. Outreach

Parks and Recreation is on board with our having small art/craft shows during their Summer Concerts on Thursday evenings, so we can start planning those.

If we put a mural on both sides of the underpass, we could paint the flora and fauna of East Windsor. Matt Conway of RiseUp and CT Murals has drawn up a proposal. Board of Selectman would need to vote on it. The project includes using a local artist to consult on the flora and fauna. The muralist that we are thinking about, Ben, could come to an agreement on those who have tagged those spaces not to tag again. The commission agreed that it would be hard to find opposition to nature. Russell Williams made a motion to begin this project and Bernie seconded his motion.

5 Village Voice deadline is March 15. We should consider amending to give a call for artisans.

Debbie has reached out to Public Works, the CT DoT, and Police Chief DeMarco regarding the decorating of traffic boxes. Communication is ongoing.

There was a discussion about finding a member for this commission from the performing arts. We may consider approaching the owners of the Broad Brook Opera house. It was asked if we have approached Khamp Phimvongsa, Karen Stavalone has met before and will speak with him.

Parks and Rec with have about 10 music events this year. We can choose how many vendors and mix and match the vendors. We will consider renting space from \$25-75 and we could have an indoor and outdoor price.

VI. Public Participation

Noreen from South Water Street came to discuss an idea she has for the Broad Brook School. Noreen is on the Board of Education; she has a granddaughter who attended the Broad Brook School. In 2019 the Fire Marshall told the BBS that they could no longer hang paper on the wall. This means that there is no student art in any of the public hallways or spaces and it makes the school plain and depressing looking. She thought she would mention it and let artists know. The commission members thanked Noreen for bringing this to our attention as our purpose is to have art bring people together.

VII. Adjourn

Russell Williams made a motion to adjourn, and Bernie Duffy seconded and at 7:30 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Debbie Williams, Chair of the East Windsor Arts and Culture Committee