

**East Windsor Arts and Culture
Special Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2021
Town Hall Meeting Room
6:30 PM**

Commission members in attendance: James C. “Jimbo” Richards, Christina Posniak, Karen Stavelone, Debra “Debbie” Williams, Russell Williams

Erica Giroux (absent)

Additional Individuals present: Bernie Duffy, Jeff Holcombe, Nancy Masters, Sarah A. Muska (Selectman – Commission Advisor), Al Zeigler

I. Call to Order/Welcome

At 6:30 p.m. the meeting was called to order and Debbie Williams welcomed those in attendance. She additionally read the commission charge:

“The Town of East Windsor hereby establishes an Arts and Culture Committee, which shall be charged with collaborating with other boards and commissions to identify both indoor and outdoor communal areas throughout East Windsor that can be aesthetically enhanced by establishing art installations and creating events and promoting tourism.”

The committee’s work will create a stronger sense of community pride by highlighting arts and culture (defined in the broadest sense,) aesthetically enhance indoor and outdoor communal areas throughout East Windsor and bring people from other towns into East Windsor. This would be accomplished for example by establishing art installations, creating events, promoting businesses/artists, encouraging public participation to foster community and spread joy, and acting as a liaison between the town and residents for future programming. It will enhance the knowledge, enjoyment, and appreciation of arts and culture in East Windsor, unite people, support artists, promote creativity, celebrate our history and our diversity, and bring in tourism.

While we were told the application for the Better Together Community Fund Grant was denied because our committee was too new, we can and will move forward with our own fundraising. We will apply for the grant again during the next application process.

II. Introductions/Attendance

Commission members and those additional individuals in attendance introduced themselves and indicated what skills and experience he/she might bring to the work of the commission.

III. New Business

a) Elect officers

Debbie Williams was nominated to serve as Chair of the committee and this nomination was seconded and approved. Christina Posniak was nominated to serve as Vice Chair of the committee and this nomination was seconded and approved. A Secretary was not appointed at this time.

b) Description of committee/projects

Lengthy discussion regarding possible projects ensued including:

- Contest to create a logo for the Arts and Culture Committee
- Small interactive murals
- Large Scale murals
- Movies in the Park
- Film Festival – history of East Windsor
- Team up with public school to have Classical Music events
- Art Show

c) Outreach

d) Project ideas

By Zoom, Matt Conway from Rise up for Arts <https://www.theriseupgroup.org/about> explained the work of this non-profit which is making public art happen in CT and is also creating opportunities for interested local artists to gain experience in mural work.

RiseUP | CT Murals partners with 39 communities across Connecticut to create 39 large-scale murals that represent the diversity of our communities and highlight local and national Civil Rights leaders. With a desire to bring actionable change to each community, RiseUP is also partnering with the CT Center for Nonviolence (CTCN) to host an Introductory Kingian Nonviolence Training. CTCN uses a proactive approach utilizing a comprehensive nonviolence curriculum developed by the legendary civil rights activist and scholar, Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr., the former strategist for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Honorary Board Chair for CTCN.

e) Fundraising

f) Set date for December meeting

Next meeting of the committee is set for Tuesday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m. The following agenda items were discussed:

- Appointing a Secretary and an administrator of the Facebook page
- Getting the word out about the committee and its work
- Creating a bank of artists
- Choosing one or two initial projects

IV. Correspondence

V. Public Participation

VI. Adjourn

There was a motion to adjourn by Russell Williams which was seconded by Christina Posniak and at 8:11 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.

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