

East Windsor Arts and Culture

Meeting Minutes

6/14/22

6:30 PM

Town Hall, Broad Brook

These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting

Commission members in attendance: Bernie Duffy, Christina Posniak, Karen Stavolone, Debbie Williams

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

I. Call to Order/Attendance

Debbie called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Approval of minutes of May 10, 2022, meeting

A motion to approve the minutes was brought by Karen and Bernie seconded.

III. Pride and ownership of the group/membership

Debbie expressed her pride in what we do as an arts and culture commission and the hope that every member of the commission shares this feeling of pride. We agreed as group that we should put it out there to see if anyone wants to join us. We should share our meeting minutes with prospective members and suggest that they go to one meeting to see if it is something for them. We could use more members to add to this already productive group and to elevate our inability to have quorum for meetings. A muralist who lives in East Windsor, Debbie and Karen have encouraged her to join a meeting and see if she would like to be a commission member. Another person has expressed interest in joining our committee. Khamp would be an excellent asset to the committee; Karen knows him.

a. Email

i. Etiquette/tone

We agreed as a group to be respectful of others and the rules of engagement as commission. We cannot as a group have “reply all” conversations by email. If commission members would like to discuss something as a group, we are to propose agenda items to be discussed at commission meetings.

ii. Jim’s email

Debbie communicated to the commission that she reached out to Jimbo Richards and asked him to not send emails to the group; rather, he could place any items he wished to discuss at this commission meeting on the agenda. He did not respond. As a result, Debbie added the following items that were mentioned in his email:

1. Committee vs. commission

Commission is the bigger definition, a committee is a subgroup of a larger entity, and is temporary. The commission members present agreed we should use Arts and Culture Commission moving forward.

2. Trolley story in the Journal Inquirer (JI)

There was a misquote in the JI and the commission members agreed after discussion on the matter not to pursue the retraction.

3. Collaboration with Trolley Museum

Debbie recounted for the commission how the collaboration with the Trolley Museum came about. She brought the idea to the commission, pursued the opportunity and this commission approved the collaboration unanimously which resulted in a wonderful mural that beautifies an organization and a heavily traveled road in our town, as well as supporting a local artist (the muralist is from Ellington).

4. Future projects/moving forward

The commission agreed that agenda item III. Pride and ownership of the group should be addressed again at the next meeting. A timer was suggested so that we can equitably pursue feedback from everyone. We agreed that the commission is still new, and we should be proud of what we have accomplished thus far. If there are any projects members would like to pursue, they should be added to future agendas.

IV. On-going/Old Business

a. Trolley Museum mural

We shared in the success of being part of making this mural happen. Debbie relayed that she posted on Facebook and got overwhelmingly good feedback about it. We reported that the GoFundme goal was reached.

b. Arts and Crafts Showcase

a. Change of schedule

b. Our role

Melissa from Parks and Rec asked that we hold the Showcase once per month. June 23 or 30th ; July 14 or 21st and August 2. We discussed going with June 30th as we have four out of the five slots covered with artists; July 14th was chosen and Sarah, Bernie and Karen will be the attending artists, and on the National Night Out on August 2 anyone can come.

c. Broad Brook Garage mural

Debbie facilitated the connection between the muralist and the garage. While the mural was originally supposed to happen in July, no communication has taken place for several months.

V. New Business

- a. Showcasing art around town- there was discussion around which venues would be best for displaying local art.
- b. Ideas for future projects?
 - a. Words on fence at EWP
 - b. Photography “contest”

We discussed what a photography contest. It was reported that there used to be a contest at Warehouse Point. We talked about the following categories for submission: nature, architecture, family, landscape, history, East Windsor. The contestants would submit it electronically. It was suggested that we would vote for the winners and ask the public to vote for a fan favorite. It was suggested to pick a date soon because the summer is a good time to take pictures. We could draw up a flyer and hand it out during the showcases.

- c. Free little library

We talked about the possibility of an eagle scout to build us one. Broad brook library was discussed as a good location.

- d. Cultural artwork
- e. Historical society postcards

We discussed how to use rooms that were offered in town buildings, annex, senior center, in town hall. Different types of space are good for different types of art was mentioned. The Trolley Museum has offered their space with a stage that could be used for an open mic or the battle of the bands. We agreed to discuss ideas related to dance and the performing arts.

Sarah Muska suggested that the commission go to the Board of Selectman and report to them about what we are doing at some point in 2022-23.

VI. Public Participation

VII. Adjourn

There was a motion to adjourn by Karen and seconded by Bernie. Debbie concluded the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

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