

Meeting Minutes

East Windsor Arts and Culture

11/14/23

6:30 PM

East Windsor Town Hall

These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting

I. Call to Order/Attendance

At 6:35 p.m. Debbie Williams called the meeting to order. The commission members present were Bernie Duffy, Christina Posniak, Karen Stovolone, Russell Williams, and Debbie Williams; and community participants included Jeff Holcombe; and commission liaison, Sarah Muska.

II. Approval of minutes of 10/10/23 meeting

Debbie asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes from the October 10 meeting. Russell made a motion to approve the October minutes and Bernie seconded this motion concluding that all were in favor.

III. On-going/recently completed projects update

a. Collaboration with Soccer Club/HS

Joe Unsworth the head of the E.W. Soccer Club asked us to consider moving this painting project to the spring when the students would have more time and opportunity available to work on this.

b. EW Veterans- door, logo contest

A selfie board with a veteran's theme is planned. Debbie offered the idea of the commission helping the Veterans organization with a logo. Russell asked about social media tactics to promote the commission.

c. Photography contest photos

Debbie reported that the photos from the photography contest were all ripped and buckled. Debbie got replacements for the three that she originally thought were ruined and then learned that all of the photographs had similar damage. The heat from the blower in the restaurant is suspected to be the culprit. Debbie will contact the company and replace the others. Debbie asked if we should provide the frames and photos to the contest winners. The company is called Happy Tiles. Good Mornings near Main Street Fish Market is the restaurant where the photographs have been displayed.

d. **Trolley Ads**

Debbie has taken one picture with the student artist and will attempt to get a picture of each of the artists.

IV. New Projects

a. **Upcycle contest/birdhouses (Home Depot)/bottle caps (boxes in schools)**

Home Depot is willing to give us 12 birdhouse kits for free. We discussed how many we want to be able to provide. Karen proposes that we might want 36 of them. We discussed making it a contest, having a specific theme and displaying them at Arts and Culture Day. We discussed voting for the award winners at the Arts and Culture Day. We also talked about giving contestant artists a couple of months for the artists to pick up and complete.

In terms of the bottle caps, Debbie reported that we already have started collecting and we got a donation from a woman who had hundreds of them.

b. **Performance artist event (open mic) at HS? BBOH?**

Broad Brook Opera house seemed open for open mic. High school has a stage and so does the Trolley Museum. Jeff cautioned us to have some barriers against profanity. We need to be specific about family friendly.

c. **Mural at Good Mornings**

Debbie talked to the owner about the cost of a mural for a large wall in the restaurant; this mural would be in the \$8k range; the owner is not interested at this time because it is more than she is able to dedicate to this at this time.

d. **Reached out to EWHs about student members**

Debbie has not heard back from the high school on members.

e. **Mural at WHP Library**

The Library does not have the funds for this mural at this time so Debbie explored a GoFundMe option for them.

f. **Arts and Culture Day 2024 5.18.23**

i. **Cookie class**

ii. **Paint splatter room?**

By Khamp

iii. **Bottle cap project?**

iv. **Food?**

We discussed having a foot truck and Debbie will look into the Lebanese restaurant owed one. Karen Stovolone knows the Oz and Bones BBQ food truck owner in case we are interested in pursuing this option. We talked about music and agreed we like having three acoustic artists.

CT office of the Arts grant application has been moved forward two times and we await the final word. In terms of the Humanities grant we will get \$1,200. The Greater Community fund contacted us and asked if the commission could do our project for \$4k instead. We discussed that we could certainly make this work but will need to cut out the Skate Park bench out of the project. The grant is now moving to the Hartford Foundation and looks positive.

Debbie reported that she spoke with the owner of Naturally Dog and Cat to see if they would be interested in a mural.

We discussed the several ideas; an Art Crawl, a sculpture walk and public demonstrations. An Art Crawl is when several businesses host artists. Jeff suggested that we should coincide with open studio day (like the one in Hartford.) Open studio is two days; artists sit with their work. Jeff thinks we might be able to link up with them. We would do it the same weekend. Always two weekends – one in November and one in the spring. With a Sculpture Walk, the art gets delivered. The last idea we discussed was public demonstrations: Broad Brook Turnings was another idea. The demonstrations were popular during the Arts and Culture Day.

V. Communication

- a. Matt Conway**
- b. EW Veterans**
- c. Home Depot**
- d. Allison Anderson/Kat McClelland/Barbra Kaminski**
- e. Patrick Tudryn**
- f. Jason Bowsza**

VI. Public Participation

Debbie read from Russ Salk's ideas and we agreed to table for the time being as he was not in attendance.

VII. **Adjourn**

Debbie adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

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