

East Windsor Arts and Culture
Meeting Minutes
1/11/23
6:30 PM
Town Hall, Broad Brook

These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting

I. Call to Order/Attendance

Debbie called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Commission members in attendance were Sharon Aprea, Bernie Duffy, Christina Posniak, Karen Stavalone, Debbie Williams, and Russell Williams; Sarah Muska, commission advisor and community member, Khamp Phimvongsa. Khamp is interested in collaborating with this commission. He is the owner of the building in Broad Brook center which used to house Elaine's. Khamp is renovating the space to establish a Broad Brook Art Center. The commission members introduced themselves.

II. Approval of minutes of 12/13/22 meeting

Debbie made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2022, meeting, and Sharon seconded.

III. New Business

a. A+C Membership

Debbie reported that Jim Richards has stepped down from this commission as well as another commission that he served on for the town. The commission discussed, given Jim having left the commission we now need to seek a member or members who are Republicans. The composition of the commission is now only Democrats and Independents/unaffiliated.

b. CT Humanities Grant

Debbie announced that her grant submission to CT Humanities and the commission has been approved for a \$5,100 grant. In total, the commission has \$10k to spend and \$4k to spend by June 30 of this year. We still have the Pavilion at Parks and Recreation booked on May 20 for the Community Day. Sharon offered to do a paint pour workshop at the Community Day. Debbie presents our plans to spend our budget this year to the Selectman on February 17 at 7:00 pm.

A question that was asked at the previous meeting was answered by Sarah Muska. It is a rule that committee members cannot benefit from any project that their commission is running.

c. Collaboration with the Trolley Museum

IV. On-going/Old Business

a. Big ideas for budget \$/collaboration with RiseUp, Inc.

b. Collaboration with AHRC

Debbie reported the outcome of the chain saw woodpecker carving which this committee had commissioned along with AHRC. The carver at the last minute wanted to be paid in cash. The town could not approve this type of payment and he refused to sign a W9. The carver was recommended by the AHRC. Debbie reported that the AHRC was granted Together Community grant funds. When we originally explored carvers, these artists were charging on average \$1,200+. Debbie has proposed that we could consider the Braille trail having smaller carvings. The commission discussed if the AHRC donates \$650 then we would be willing to match. We tabled this final vote and decision until next month.

c. Collaboration with schools

a. EWHS: grad project, tennis court fence project

The tennis court fence project installation is delayed but the principal is eager to get this done when they can do so.

b. BBES: Rock River, 1B1S mural, indoor mural?

Christina will report on fundraising for the rocks, letter completed and will be mailed this same week. The mural at Broad Brook will wait until the spring. Debbie had previously gone to EW Middle School, and she reported that the school received a grant to beautify the courtyard.

c. Public display of student work

Debbie gave us examples of display stands for the schools for commission members to consider. For reference, Karen reported that the standard size for student work is generally 9 by 12. The commission will discuss a plan at the next commission meeting.

d. Mural at BB Garage

The owner has repeatedly not returned phone calls from Debbie for the past couple of months despite originally being interested in partnering with us.

e. Photography contest

Commission members should review the Photography Contest information that would go up on Facebook to launch the photography contest. Debbie will include the list of judges and dates. The due date for photography content will be about April 15, 2023. We plan to post this on January 17. Russell made a motion to launch on the 17th and Sharon seconded.

Debbie shared promotional materials for Arts and Culture. Russell made a motion to purchase business cards and a banner and Karen Stavalone seconded. We could do this in conjunction. If there is white space. Debbie made a motion to purchase plastic sleeves for \$45 and this was seconded by Christina Posniak.

We discussed a medal outdoor sculpture that creates a window that can be enjoyed from different sides. We also discussed the type of outdoor animals; these art cows are sold for 20 in a set. We plan to discuss the Puzzle Pieces project at next meeting

V. Communication

- a. Gina Alimberti
- b. Ed Crowell- Bear Creek Studio
- c. Lindsey Tran, Laura Fox, Matt Ryan- BBES
- d. Allison Anderson- EWHs
- e. Ben Keller
- f. Matt Conway

VI. Public Participation

Khamp Phimvongsa joined the group this evening and told us about his vision for the building that he purchased. He envisions a school for arts and crafts. He is invested in the town of East Windsor. He is transitioning from construction work to fine arts. He would like to add to this what the commission is doing. He envisions incorporating local artists for classes. Sharon and Karen are interested. Karen asked if he knew about Vermont Studio Center, residency center. We could meet as a group in this Broad Brook Art Center.

VII. Adjourn

Debbie makes a motion to close the meeting at 7:35 p.m. and Russell Williams seconded the motion.

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