

East Windsor Arts and Culture
Special Meeting Agenda
2/27/24
6:30 PM
East Windsor Town Hall

These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting

I. Call to Order/Attendance

At 6:31 p.m. Debbie Williams called the meeting to order. The commission members present were Sharon Aprea, Kristin Blume, Bernie Duffy, Christina Posniak, and Debbie Williams; and community participants included Jeff Holcombe; and Selectman, Keith Yagaloff.

II. Approval of minutes of 01/09/24 meeting

Debbie asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes from the January 9, 2024, meeting and invited any discussion or questions. Sharon Aprea made a motion to approve the January minutes and Bernie seconded this motion concluding that all were in favor.

III. Added agenda items?

IV. Committee to Commission status/grants/budget meeting updates

The committee discussed the differences between a committee and a commission. If we sought to be a commission at this time the following would be the structure of the group:

The Commission shall consist of seven (7) regular members and two (2) alternate members who shall be electors of the Town and shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Terms shall be staggered so that three (3) members are appointed each term. Members shall be appointed for a term of four (4) years. In addition, there may be as many non-voting associate members as desired by the Commission. For membership purposes, minority representation shall not apply to this Commission.

As a committee we can appoint Jeff Holcombe as a community advocate; Jeff has indicated a desire to participate. Commissions, unlike committees, would not have to reup every 18 months. We agreed that we would bring this subject again at the next meeting as we did not come to a consensus.

V. On-going projects

- a. Birdhouses decorating project-Home Depot, out of stock/waitlist
Debbie reported that we had an overwhelming response to the birdhouse decorating activity; we had 40 people who are interested in participating. We discussed the need to purchase enough birdhouses from Home Depot

that would match the original set that were donated. Bernie made a motion to spend \$345.71 to purchase the additional birdhouses and Aprea seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

b. Performance artist event (open mic) at Trolley Museum 4.27.24

We only have one 6-year-old who is signed up for this event. It is still two months away so we have time to get more performers interested. It was suggested that Karen Stavolone's son may know potential performers.

c. EWS Graduation Boards

Debbie is looking for appropriate-sized pallets and committee members had a few suggestions. The number of students in this year's graduating class is 52.

d. BBES Rock River

The owner of Harkens has donated two bags of river rock. Debbie sent a picture through Facebook of what the future rock river could look like.

e. Arts and Culture Day 2024 5.18.23

i. Budget

ii. Cookie decorating?

The cookie decorator is local yet pricey. Kristin offered that we could work with her on a possible cookie structure that could teach participants architecture in some way.

iii. Khamp-confirmed, project TBD

Khamp has confirmed that he will participate in Arts and Culture day in leading a demonstration but the project is not determined at this time.

iv. Bottle cap project (contest)

Debbie let us know that with over 7,000 caps that had already been donated and cleaned, she recently received approximately 6,000 more. We discussed the bottle cap art project. Jeff cautioned the use of wood to avoid splinters and suggested particle board; Sharon suggested foam core. Jeff and Sharon suggested Gorilla glue for the adhesive. This will be an adult facilitated project. We don't think we will need the nails.

v. Picnic table/Julie Bergeron fee

Through RiseUp the tables and the two Adirondack chairs are being built. The artist, Julie will be painting the picnic table, and

she will be presenting some designs to us for our approval. Bernie made a motion to pay \$800 for this project and Debbie seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

vi. Food

We have two food trucks. Fat City kid is one of the food trucks which has lots of options. Kristin mentioned that Chick fil e has a food truck. The other food truck has not gotten back to Debbie.

vii. **Vendors**

We have a couple of vendors; we are not charging to vend. Bernie is vending and demonstrating. Jeff is planning on being there.

viii. **Tractor display?**

Unfortunately, arts and culture day is the same day as a tractor group activity.

ix. Signs

x. Promotional giveaway

Debbie explained to us a promotional giveaway idea of a coloring book to give out with our logo on it. Debbie is getting a free sample sent to her. Last year we had 100 participants, and it was raining so we likely need to plan for more participants this year, especially if we have good weather.

xi. Music

We have two musicians that are lined up and one is a repeat act.

xii. Demonstrations

Christina explained her idea to have a demonstration related to Neurographic Art. The group thought this was a good idea and encouraged Christina to pursue it.

Debbie made note that out of the budget we will need to account for Kristin Blume getting a tee shirt for arts and culture day. Debbie let us know that the budget meeting is tomorrow, and arts and culture is 3rd on the agenda.

VI. New/Future Projects

a. **Bus shelter seating area at EWP**

Debbie showed us the picture of the mockup of the bus shelter concept. It would be \$50 to purchase this bus shelter. In order to move forward we would need to seek permission from first selectman, and then approval from Melissa the head of Parks and Recreation.

b. Sustainable CT

They will match everything up to \$7.500. As soon as you put forth a project and it is approved, they distribute funds to start the project immediately.

VII. Communication

- a. Jason Bowsza/Town offices
- b. Gina Alimberti
- c. Khamp Phimvongsa
- d. Cathy Doner
- e. Antoinette Brim Bell
- f. Joe Sauerhoeffer
- g. Bloomfield Home Depot
- h. Harkens Landscape & Supply
- i. Mercury
- j. Allison Anderson
- k. Finn Rowan, Eddie DeRocher
- l. Sustainable CT

VIII. Public Participation

Selectman, Keith Yagaloff began by explaining the formal nature of moving from a committee to a commission stating that a commission is an ordinance and gets voted on by the public. Our mission would not change. We could apply for grants without town permission if a commission. This commission could have 9 members. Keith stated he thinks it would be great for us to change to a commission. He outlined the revisions he made to the ordinance like removing the mention of tourism under the Powers and Duties section and his thought process around adding the wording which states the commission would determine the suitability of the artwork. Keith believes artists have the right to push the limits of free expression. After having explained his position on the wording for a commission ordinance and his support of art and culture overall, he shared with the committee that he had further feedback to us as a group which we may not like hearing from him. Keith shared with the group that he felt we were unfriendly, stating that we did not seek his input, advice, or comments on the earlier parts of the agenda before the public participation.

IX. Adjourn

Debbie adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

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