

## **Town of Washington**

### **Arts Council**

#### **Minutes**

August 10, 2023- 7:00 pm

Bryan Town Hall main conference room and zoom

#### **Members Present:**

Abdo Ballester, Fran Keilty, Karen Silk, Kirsten Leon, Tracy Liz Miller

**Staff:** Michelle Gorra- Economic and Community Development Coordinator

1. Call to order 7:09
2. Vote to approve minutes of July 13, 2023. Karen moved approval, Kirsten seconded and all voted in favor.

#### **3. Updates**

- a. Sharing of events and feedback- there is a new Art Gallery, Eckert Fine Art Gallery + Consulting, opening at 10 Titus. Grand opening party Saturday Oct. 7, 3-6. Karen shared that the Shakespeare event was well attended. Theater Exchange will be holding a fund raiser Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at FGS. Pilobolus will be at the Cultural Fest event in Torrington Aug 19. They have a dress rehearsal at 11pm Aug 18<sup>th</sup> and need volunteers.
- b. Scheduling of events-
- c. Build email list for announcements- We can not add on to the town's Mail Chimp so we will need to set up our own. With the free version we are able to enroll up to 500 email addresses and send 1,000 emails a month. The council felt that should be enough to start.

#### **4. New Business**

- a. **Logo contest-results-** Everyone participated. Logo 3 received 7 votes. There was discussion regarding which version of Logo 3 should be used. Felt "Arts for All" is important. The council decided version 2 was the best of the 4. The council decided they would like to acknowledge the designer and put an announcement in the Selectman's email.

#### **5. Old Business**

##### **a. Update on and review of Cultural District work**

Michelle will start working on the map. The council needs to get the presentation together for a public hearing. We can hold that at a regularly scheduled Arts Council meeting. The district must be walkable which makes including the Green a challenge but we will include and see what the State says. We should include

Philip Grausman sculptures on the walk as well as the historic Rossiter homes. Discussed a shuttle or maybe e-bikes for rent like citibikes.

b. **Discuss preparation for Photo Exhibit "Washington Through the Seasons"**

Oct. 4-15- Michelle will be away Oct 5-8 as well as Karen. It is a holiday weekend and 3,000 people came for the Harvest Fest last year. Discussed the Arts Council having a scarecrow for the contest. Kirsten may be away. Abdo and Tracy are here. Talked about how Friday evening is a challenge for people coming in. Felt that Saturday after the Farmer's Market might be a good time to hold the opening before the art gallery opening. Also discussed holding it on Sunday at the end of the Harvest Fest. Michelle shared the start of a flier. We also discussed what else we should have at the opening. We felt refreshment should be included with a fall theme and based on the weather. We discussed borrowing a hot beverage dispenser from the church. Could also try to get somethings donated.

c. **Manning "What's Happening" sandwich board on Saturdays**-Karen said 10:30

-12:00 is still best and the new spot in front of Gold and Silver is working well.

Paula from Momix will help man the board for the next two weeks. Karen and Victoria have been doing that most Saturdays. Other members of the committee said they will try to help man the board.

d. Discussed that several of the non-profits in town are hiring. Wondering if there is a way to combine to help attract candidates?

6. Public Comment- none

7. Adjournment-8:20

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Gorra

Meeting recording

<https://youtu.be/xBWjnQm8DiY?si=-VRllvF2DFZPTn3L>