

# North Kingstown Arts Council

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 Minutes

**Members Present:** Nancy Whyte Sherman - Chairperson, James Halley – Vice Chairperson, Eleanor Acton, Gail Shawn Burda - Recording Secretary, Maria Carroccia, Fran Crete, Gerry Grabowski, Nora Hall, Robert Martone, Kathleen McCarthy, Donna Vanderbeck

**Excused Absents:** Scott Monroe, Deborah Sabo

**Un-Excused Absents:** None

**Zoom meeting** hosted by Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs, Recreation Director

**Attendees:** Ricky Thompson

1. **Call to order:** Nancy Whyte Sherman - Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
2. **Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-6©** Notice of this meeting has been posted on the Secretary of State's website.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve January 12, 2022 Minutes as written, made by James Halley, seconded by Gerry Grabowski.
  - a. Unanimous approval.
4. **Guests:** None
5. **Financial Items:**
  - a. Smith's Castle has two and Gilbert Stuart has one scheduled event(s) before the end of this fiscal year, which has been factored in to our budgeted funds.
  - b. Renee Hughes, from *Dave's Market*, let Nancy know that a \$1,500 donation has been approved and the check will be sent in the mail. Their logo will appear on all the family concerts.
  - c. *Tuesday Night Concerts:* Kathleen McCarthy has contacted most of the Wickford Merchants plus Post Road businesses for concert donations; Gail Shawn Burda secured a \$500 donation from Paul Bailey's. She had \$1,500 from them in 2019 and 2020 (we didn't have concerts in 2020, so they said to use their 2020 donation for concerts in 2021). This year their inventory has been low, hence the drop in the donation. For \$500 Bailey's will be highlighted at a Tuesday Night concert of their choice; Donna Vanderbeck received a \$500 donation approval from *Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)*, confirmed by Matt McCoy.
  - d. Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs, Recreation Director, has contracts for the Food Truck, contracts back early. Town Council approval now needed.
  - e. Motion to accept the Financial Report made by James Halley, seconded by Gerry Grabowski.
  - f. Unanimous approval
6. **Publicity/Website:** Scott Monroe absent, no report
  - a. Nancy Whyte Sherman was talking with *Standard Times* reporter Robert Ford, who attended a concert of ours last season and was quite taken with the group and our concert series. He did a story on the *Arts Council* and our concerts, which should run next week. Nancy feels that with Robert on board we should receive better coverage this season.
7. **Projects Proposals:**
  - a. **Children's Summer Concerts – Family Concerts #80411 - 2022 season for July, 6-7 pm**
    - **Contact:** Gerry Grabowski, Arts Council member. **Liaison:** Nancy Whyte Sherman
    - July 7 – Atwater-Donnelly - \$325
    - July 14 – Vanessa Trien and the Flying Monkeys - \$850

- July 21 – Johnny the K - \$575
- July 28 – B. Parker and the Hornets - \$900
- Total cost: Entertainers and Publicity is \$2,800, they received a Sponsor donation of \$1,500 from *Dave's*, estimate \$150 in donations, so are requesting \$1,150 from the *Arts Council*.
- Should it rain on a concert night they will move everything into the *Community Center*.
- Motion to approve the \$1,150 requested, made by James Halley, seconded by Donna Vanderbeck.
- Unanimous approval

**b. Tuesday Night Summer Concerts #80412 – 2022, June 31<sup>st</sup> – August 30<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8 pm**

- **Contact: James Halley, Arts Council member, Liaison: An Arts Council Member is needed to volunteer**
- June 21 – Paula Clare Band - \$650
- June 28 – Take it to the Bridge - \$1,600
- July 12 – Gov 88<sup>th</sup> Army - \$0.00
- July 19 – Driftwoods - \$800
- July 26 – Country Wild -\$ 750
- August 2 – Neal and Vipers \$1,000
- August 9 – Reminisce - \$1,000
- August16 – Narrow River - \$600
- August 23 – Good Vibe Tribe - \$400
- August 30 – Brass Attack - \$1,650
- Sponsors: \$1,200, estimated \$4,000 in donations
- Should it rain on a concert night they will move everything to *Davisville Middle School*, located on School Street in the North end of Town.
- Motion to approve the \$4,750 requested, made by Gerry Grabowski, seconded by Eleanor Acton.
- Unanimous approval

**8. Final Funding Forms:**

**a. Witches of Wickford (part of Horribles Parade) #80407 contact: Nancy Rafi Liaison: Nancy Whyte Sherman**

- Nancy Rafi is not doing it next October 31, 2023 and needs someone to take over coordinating the event.
- There were one hundred & forty-seven women dressed as witches performing in the parade along with *Providence Drum Troupe & Cirkus Dynamics* performers, last year.
- A suggestion was made to charge those wearing a witch costume ten dollars per person, to participate.
- Awards ceremony was great and food truck good, but parked too far away from the crowds.
- Huge crowd - smiling and laughing, beautiful costumes, rave reviews on social media, she started getting requests from people, to be part of next year's event right away, sponsors seemed very happy with the exposure.

- Local newspapers didn't cover event, a huge disappointment and wouldn't publish Nancy Rafi's thank you letter to the Editor (Nancy did post it on social media and got lots of positive comments.
- Disappointed that so many shops were closed, nothing for people to do after the parade and only a couple of food establishments opened.
- Additional Funding: Sponsors – McKay's Furniture - \$500, Grants: Merchants Association - \$350, Other – Brian H. & Nancy Rafi - \$580, totals: \$1,430.
- Motion to approve the \$750 requested, made by James Halley, seconded by Maria Carroccia.
- Unanimous approval

## 9. Old Business:

### a. Rhode Island Black Storytellers performance #80410 - Liaisons: Robert Martone & Kathleen McCarthy

- This presentation is due to take place the last week in February
- Robert Martone has a Friday meeting, with Valerie Tutson, the applicant, to set a date and announce the artist, for the event.
- This event could possibly end up being presented remotely.

## 10. New Business:

### a. Kate will report on sponsorships for the Summer Concert series

- Kathleen McCarthy has contacted most of the Wickford Merchants plus Post Road businesses for concert donations – ten out of twenty-nine have responded.
- *Cardi's Furniture* seems promising and URI Music School, *SENE* (Southeast New England Film, Music and Arts Festival), is donating \$200 (which band do they want to sponsor?)
- Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs, Recreation Director, has some Sponsorship Packets if needed.

### b. Horribles Parade 2022

- Parade information combined with #8 Final Funding - Witches of Wickford

### c. Rock Show

- Ann Grady will present an event revolving around the Rune Stone, located in Library Park in August 2022.

### d. Grant Opportunities

- Ann O'Grady has volunteered to offer a video or one time presentation on how to write grants and her experiences, however since we are not a 501(3)C we may be limited as to what grants we are eligible to pursue.
- This opportunity is open to our Project Proposal requestors.

## 11. Correspondence:

- Town Clerk Jeanette Alyward – let us know that the Town received two applications from people requesting to be members of the Arts Council: Roberta Belanger, former Director of the North Kingstown Chorus for thirty-one years and Daniel Swain, who moved here in 2021 and runs fundraisers for the Newport Festival & Jazz Festival and is devoted to the arts. On February 7, 2022 the Town Council appointed Roberta Belanger to the Arts Council. The Town Council felt that they had two qualified candidates and suggested that they possibly increase the membership of the Arts Council. Jeannette Alyward asked to let her know if the Arts Council feels that this would be beneficial.

- James Halley didn't want it to sound like a position was being created to allow a particular person to get on the Council, but to be voted on, only if a position was thought to be needed.
- Gail Shawn Burda felt that the Arts Council could get too large and that no matter how you spin it, it sounded like a position was being created indeed, to get a particular person on board.
- It was mentioned that David could attend our meetings in the audience and when an opening became available, he could apply, as other members of our Council have done.
- Motion to approve adding another member to the Arts Council, as suggested by the Town Council, bringing the Arts Council Membership up to fourteen members, made by James Halley, seconded by Donna Vanderbeck.
- Voting went as follows:  
Nancy Whyte Sherman – No, James Halley – Yes, Eleanor Acton - Yes, Gail Shawn Burda - No, Maria Carroccia - Yes, Fran Crete - Yes, Gerry Grabowski - Yes, Nora Hall - No, Robert Martone - Yes, Kathleen McCarthy - Yes, Donna Vanderbeck - Yes. Absent from voting: Scott Monroe, Deborah Sabo.
- Motion passes eight to three. Arts Council now is composed of fourteen members.

b. Nancy Whyte Sherman announced that Fran Crete will not be continuing on the *Arts Council*, after March 1, 2022, her term expiration date. Fran travels to visit family and would like to pursue other volunteer work. Fran has been on the *Arts Council* since March 6, 2017, is always ready to help out where needed and will continue to volunteer for our Concert Series when available. She will be missed.

c. The Covid one time payout to North Kingstown has the Town Council asking for public input, as to how to spend the money. A group wrote to them about new sidewalks on West Main Street. We need to write to the Town Council about having a theater in Town, since finding a place to perform is quite limited and some have had to go out of Town to find a performing space. Input must be to the Town Council before their February 28, 2022 meeting date.

**12 Adjournment:** Nancy Whyte Sherman, Chairperson called for a Motion to Adjourn.

- Motion to adjourn at 8:02 pm made by James Halley, seconded by Donna Vanderbeck.
- Unanimous approval.

**The Next Scheduled Meeting will be on March 9, 2022**

Respectfully submitted by,

Gail Shawn Burda

Recording Secretary