

**Town of East Hampton
Arts & Cultural Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 21, 2013
Eaton E. Smith Meeting Room – Town Hall**

Attendees: Monica Kangley, Elizabeth Sennett, Shirley Brooks, Bob Berlin, Kevin Gunning
Valerie Bozzi

Regrets: Melissa Pionzio, Carol Lane, Sheila Tomlinson Earl & Steven Kelley

The monthly meeting of EH Arts & Cultural Commission was called to order by Chairperson Monica Kangley at 6:35PM. Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed and a motion to approve was made by Shirley and a second from Elizabeth. All agreed and they were approved.

There was no public in attendance, so therefore, there were no comments.

Old Business:

- **Status of 2013 Proposed Budget:** Finance Director, Jeff Jylka requested from Sue Berescik, staff liaison a written description of our activities and goals in response to our request for funds. This was sent to Jeff.
- **Marlborough Art's Center Request:** MAC asked if they could include their events on the EHAC calendar. Monica is still planning to speak to Cathy Sirois to find out whether there are any barriers to including their events. There was a discussion and all in attendance agreed that this would be mutually beneficial. It supports our mission and charter. There are 24 East Hampton residents who are members of the Marlborough Art's Center.
- **Trifold Display Board:** Bob Berlin offered to supply a display board for the purpose of outreach events. We would have our name across the top and a copy of our charter and goals in the center. On either side, we will have material that will change as needed, including pictures and event listings.
- **Review of meeting with John Cusano:** Everyone in attendance thought the talk was very beneficial to the Commission. It was comprehensive and served as a great springboard. Some of the key components that provided a direction for us include: connecting with the director of the Shoreline Arts Alliance with the possible intent of collaboration, the Peer Advisory Network, and the importance of conducting a thorough community needs assessment related to the arts. We decided that the needs assessment should be our first order of agenda. To this end, Mr. Cusano had recommended a handbook that will assist us. Monica went online to the UMASS Amherst Arts Extension Service and found that instead of a book, it is now a downloadable PDF that is divided into two volumes. They are entitled, *Conducting a Community Cultural Assessment: A Work Kit, Volume I* and *Developing a Strategic Cultural Plan: A Work Kit, Volume II*. We decided to start with the first volume so that we can begin to develop the needs assessment.

Mr. Cusano also clarified what an arts commission does or doesn't do. The commission should not get involved in fundraising for groups, or put on their own events that may compete with other organizations & groups. It is acceptable to hold events for the purpose of outreach to the community.

We discussed how the Peer Advisory Network could be of help to the community. We can make town groups aware of this resource to help provide direction and focus for various groups. The commission also may decide at some point to apply for some consulting if we need help in developing a strategic plan for ourselves once we complete

the assessment. Mr. Cusano assured us that it is not competitive and that more than one group can apply from one community.

New Business:

- Goals for 2013: We will order the PDF on conducting an assessment. Once we review it, if we decide we need further assistance, we will invite a speaker from Shoreline Arts Alliance to come to a meeting.
- Other goals are dependent on the amount that has been approved for our budget. Creating a brochure or other outreach materials or paying someone to take minutes will be decided on once we are aware of our allowable funds and expenses.
- We will continue to support community events and maintain a calendar and Facebook page.

Commissioners' Reports:

- Bob Berlin brought in an article Storefront Galleries that are being developed in other CT communities. There are grants that are available for this and he is considering working on this for East Hampton.
- No other Commissioners had reports at this time.

Even Announcements:

- Shirley Brooks announced that Chatham Historical Society will be hosting, Antiques Appraisal Day on March 23rd from 9:00 – 1:00 pm at EH Community Room. They are also having a speaker on March 12th at 7:00 pm at EH CR who will present, All About Outhouses.
- The EH Art Association meets the 4th Wednesday of every month at EH Community Room. At the February 27th meeting, Jo, Grabowski will turn an abstract acrylic painting and turn it into a landscape. On March 24th, Rick Daskam will do an oil painting of a landscape demonstration.
- Bob Berlin is holding art receptions at the Art Alcove on the 1st Friday of every month at 6:30 pm. There will be a featured artist every month. On March 1st, Brian Lee, a photographer will be the primary artist exhibiting work.
- Podium Players will be putting on Neil Simon's Plaza Suite at the Goff House on Feb. 22, 23 and March 1, 2 at 7:30 pm and on March 3rd at 2:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Bozzi