

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017 - 6:30 P.M.
JOSEPH N. GOFF HOUSE

Minutes

Call to Order – all commissioners present as well as Ellen Paul our town liaison.

Approval of Minutes from Sept. 21 meeting – approved.

Public Comments - none

Welcome New Commission Member Shauna Lee Lang – members introduced themselves. Shauna is new to East Hampton, although she had lived in Connecticut before and is thrilled to be home. She has been working in the arts world and is a working artist. She wants to try to be of service and see what we can do to make East Hampton an even better place to live.

Old Business

- a. Open Studio Event – Oct. 28 and 29, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Open Studio participants include Dianne Gorrick, Eileen McNamara, Lucy Sander Sceery, Lesley Braren, David Moneypenny, Shauna Lee Lang, Kate Avery, Brian Avery. Five artists will exhibit at the Old Bank space which is overseen by Lori Caldwell and commissioner Mindy Mills Maynard will help the day of the event. Melissa Pionzio has been distributing signs, Kevin Gunning designed a promotional board for the Stop & Shop Plaza billboard which parks and recreation hung up last week. The dates on the sign can be removed so the sign can be used again.

Kevin also created the studio map which includes the addresses, descriptions and contact information of the artists and their studios and the Old Bank location information and artists. Commission members reviewed and discussed the map. The map will be available on the EHACC web site www.artsforeasthamptonct.org at Old Bank and the various participating studios, the town hall and library. Melissa will ask the town manager's assistant Cathy Sirois to make copies. The Stop & Shop community board sign will need to be picked up from parks and recreation the Monday after the event. Melissa will also forward the map and an invitation to Cathy Sirois to invite town officials to attend. She has been posting info about the artists on the EHACC Facebook page and on Let's Talk East Hampton and the East Hampton Small Business Facebook page. Commissioners reviewed and discussed the map.

- b. Art Purchase Award, Carol Lane spoke to Nancy Brier, the high school interim principal, earlier in the school year but has not had a chance to discuss anything further. Mindy Mills Maynard suggested we expand our pool of artists for the Art Purchase Award to include artists who are part of the open studio. Betty Sennett said there is a new publicity person overseeing the East Hampton Art Association

Art Show, which will be held next year during the strawberry festival in the village center. Carol reminded the commission that we may not have as much funding because of the state budget situation. We will have to wait and see what happens. As a town commission, we are not allowed to fundraise or accept donations.

- c. Wade Russo Recap – Carol gave Wade the official certificate of appreciation from EHACC and he can't wait to give a presentation again for us next year. Next year the Goodspeed will be doing Oliver.

New Business

- a. Budget Review – Commissioners reviewed the EHACC Budget and the items we support and need to pay for. Carol discussed what we should do next budget cycle, whether we should follow this year's model or do something different. Ellen Paul said there is no guideline at this time. The State has not passed a budget, so there is not a guideline yet on what to request for funding. Last year we received \$3000 in town funding, this year we were cut to \$1585. Commissioners suggested that we get the town's wording and language for line items, so we know how to describe what the funds will support. The commission should start to plan the budget for the next cycle in December, Carol will put it on the November agenda. The December meeting is Dec. 21, so we may have to change that date in case there is conflict with the holidays.
- b. Writers' Guild – Shauna Lee Lange said there is an idea to form a writers and readers guild. There is a small Facebook group that has about 40 members. Events that are happening at local libraries, reading and writing tools are provided. Shauna asked if this is an initiative that is worth exploring and whether it would take hold. In other communities there are true writers' guilds that support writers of all walks of life. Carol said as a commission we are here to encourage initiatives, help promote but not necessarily form/oversee the group. Mindy suggested the EHACC host writers/readers event that could include book signings, readings, poetry events etc. Ellen said there is an author coming to the library this Saturday.
- c. Commissioners' reports - Kevin has submitted to the East Hampton News magazine. He suggested adding a tab on the EHACC web site for services needed, such as completing a project, call to artists. He will add it to the web site. Eg. Mr. Heidel from the local land trust is looking for artists to help update a sign.

Shirley Brooks discussed an issue with Wangunk Historian Gary O'Neill who had applied for one of our grants. He did not receive a grant from us this year, and as a result expressed his displeasure to the Chatham Historical Society about not getting the money. Shirley said she was told he is telling his audience during his lectures that we did not award him. Commissioners suggested we be more clear in the next grant cycle about the process of applying for the grant and what the process is for being selected and be sure all applicants are invited to present information to us about their proposal. Having a rubric guideline as backup is important.

Ed Yoker said forms for Wreaths Across America are available and the group is looking to advertise more.

The East Hampton Art Association will meet 7 p.m. on Oct. 25, watercolorist Bivienne Staiger is the featured artist from Middletown.

There is an East Hampton Monopoly Game coming out.

The East Hampton 250th anniversary committee is hosting a gala in November at St. Clements with dancing and dinner.

Ed Yocher discussed whether we should have a logo or banner for EHACC other than the town seal. Ed brought examples of signs with seals on them that can be used during events in a sandwich board. Perhaps the commission could hold a contest to create a logo.

He also suggested a set of poles could be erected so that local groups can hoist a banner across the roadway for their events. It would be a permanent structure that could be used over and over by various groups. This idea would be something we could bring to the town and the Economic Development Commission for consideration. Ed will research the cost.

Trick or Treat Main Street is Oct. 28 at 4 p.m. as well as Trick or Trunk in the Congregational Church of East Hampton parking lot hosted by parks and recreation. The Goff House Museum will participate.

Mindy Mills Maynard is moving to Tennessee as soon as she sells her condo. She will serve on the commission as long as she is here. She has enjoyed serving on the commission very much.

Public Comments – none.

Adjournment 7:53 p.m.