

East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission Meeting - March 16, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Joseph N. Goff House

Carol Lane, Kevin Gunning, Phyllis Martin, Shirley Brooks, Mindy Mills Maynard, Melissa Pionzio, Ed Yocher present.

Call to order

Approval of minutes from Feb. 16 meeting with minor changes - the actual meeting date in February was 16th not the 17th as the minutes noted.

Public Comment – The East Hampton Public Library’s newly appointed librarian Ellen Paul attended the meeting. She lives here in town, started her job as the new librarian on Monday and is very excited to be here and part of the community and create positive change in East Hampton. Carol talked about how our previous librarian was the EHACC town liaison.

Old Business

Budget Report – March 15 budget meeting was attended by Shirley and Carol attended who said it seemed as though the town council will be approving our budget request. They felt it was a good idea to let the council know who the EHACC is. They presented with parks and recreation and the library.

250th anniversary celebration grant update – Two grant proposals have been submitted - one from KOCO Daycare who would like to create a little free library, with a historical research component of the town’s history led by KOKO students. Commissioners said they liked this idea, which includes a history research and literacy component.

Another proposal was offered by Allison Mohler, who would like to put together a performance about the town’s history with music at Sears Park. Music would pay for the rental/lights/costuming/props for the performance. The performance would work to bring together various factions in town, longtime residents and new residents who seem to be at odds on social media. Commissioners liked the idea of a historic performance, but would like to see more a more detailed proposal. Melissa will try to call Allison.

Phyllis suggested that we get a plug in the morning announcements for our regular grant program, to let kids know that the grant program is available to them.

Seamster Park Photo Contest – the deadline has been extended to the end of March in the hope of getting more photo submissions. Cost is \$10 per submission, which Mindy, who will serve as a judge, said she believes may be prohibitive to some who would like to participate.

CT Arts Day 2017 – Carol attended and said it was free and lovely and included art programs and schools, theaters from towns across the state. It opened with Gov. Malloy at the Bushnell and continued with a march to the capital and there were workshops and awards for groups that have done programs. Carol said she would like to see some of the groups in East Hampton such as YPCCA and Epoch Arts get nominated for recognition at this annual event. Mrs. Malloy is the head of the State Commission on the Arts.

Wreaths Across America – Ed Yocher shared a binder from a previous Wreaths Across America which featured a school in Enfield. The initiative has an educational component for students. You buy a wreath for \$15 and the wreaths are placed on all the veteran graves. Extra wreaths go to Arlington Cemetery, so there are wreaths on every grave there. East Hampton is trying to be one of the stops on the tour. Last year it was a school in Enfield, the state police escorts the tractor trailer entourage to the participating school and are welcomed by students, dignitaries and military groups. The trucks are Walmart trucks driven by seasoned truck drivers who are all veterans. The participating students made artwork to honor the event, flags and wreaths, gave musical performances and welcomed the group in a big way. Politicians and local dignitaries were present. If it came to East Hampton, the ceremony would likely be at the East Hampton High School Gymnasium, since it's across the street from the VFW. From an EHACC standpoint, perhaps commission could provide certificates and an award to the schools for the artwork. Ed will keep us updated on the progress of the request to have the event stop in East Hampton.

New Business – Blackledge Music, last year's grant winner, has submitted a grant proposal for another chamber music performance. Commissioners discussed how to handle a repeat grant submission. So far we have two submissions for the grants. Creative Dance has also submitted a proposal to support new costumes for the group's annual holiday dance fundraiser to benefit the East Hampton Food Bank. The commissioners will review all grant proposals at the April meeting.

All District Art Show on Tuesday, March 21 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the high school. Mindy, Kevin and Melissa agreed to go and judge and take photos for the EHACC web site. Winners will receive plaques during a ceremony at Sears Park and have their work displayed at the town hall.

A local artist came to visit Melissa at her business to learn more about the art purchase award and the open studio event. Melissa asked how the commission should handle if other artists come forward and want to be part of the art purchase award. The commission selects art from the East Hampton Art Association's annual art show in June. Should we include artwork from artists who do not participate in the show? Commissioners wondered how that would work, would it be feasible. Kevin suggested having artists submit artwork digitally to our web site for consideration. Commissioners were concerned that it would take away from the art association's art show, the original idea was to help promote the art show and get more artists to participate in the art show. More discussion on this topic in the future.

Suggested art purchase award locations in town – the new high school, the police department.

Commissioners Reports and Events - This Saturday, a talk on the Wangonk Indians at 1 p.m. at the library and antique appraisal day at the library on March 25, both offered by the Chatham Historical Society. Haddam Neck Congregational Church Quilt Show will be held April 1 and 2 at the church.

Public Comment - none

Adjournment 7:49 p.m.