

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON  
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday, April 15, 2021, 6:30pm  
Joseph N. Goff House, 2 Barton Hill Road, East Hampton, CT

MINUTES

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission met on April 15, 2021 at 6:30pm at the Joseph N. Goff House. Attendees were: Carol Lane, Melissa Pionzio, Betty Sennett, and Rebecca Tinelle. Absent: Shirley Brooks, Mel Carnahan, and Ed Yocher. Minutes by Rebecca Tinelle

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm.

Motion to add discussion of a Poet Laureate to agenda by Carol Lane and seconded by Melissa Pionzio.

Motion to approve last month's meeting minutes dated 3/18/2021 by Carol Land and seconded by Melissa Pionzio.

No public remarks.

Amy Ordonez, Artist & Owner of Studio 13 was Grant Proposal was withdrawn.

Grant Proposal Presentation by Mallory Kokus, Musician – Musical Program for Children:

- Mallory Kokus is a musician and certified music teacher. She received her certification for “First Steps in Music” ages birth to 5 years old from The Hartt School of Music from her mentor Connie.
- “First Steps in Music” has a curriculum, but the teacher has some digression on what to teach.
- Mallory moved from Glastonbury to East Hampton with her husband & three children in 2018.
- Mallory currently teaches “First Steps in Music” at AHM in Hebron and would like to start a class in East Hampton to fill the gap in early learning of music.
- Parents attend class with children. A word sheet is given to parents so they can practice at home.
- A location to teach class is needed & possibilities were discussed, such as The Goff House, the Library & church halls.
- Connecting with the Librarian would be helpful to get Mallory started.
- Promote “First Steps in Music” class in The Rivereast, social media, etc.

Review of Grant Proposals & Vote on Selections: The six \$500 grant proposals were discussed and the following four were awarded the grants:

1. Mallory Kokus, Musician – Musical Program for Children for First Steps in Music for ages 0-5
2. Dean Markham, Joseph N. Goff House for Gazebo Concert Series
3. Christine Fielding, Middle School Librarian with Art Teacher Carl Pastor for student collaboration on painting 4 large art canvases to be displayed in town
4. Elizabeth Namen, Epoch Arts for music, theater, paint nights, open mic etc.

The Town Council tasked the Arts & Culture Commission to discuss the potential for a town Poet Laureate. A Poet Laureate is a poet officially appointed by a government or conferring institution, typically expected to compose poems for special events & occasions. Robert Claps is a published poet who suggested the town should have a Poet Laureate. Many CT towns have Poet Laureates and they are typically connected with the US & Youth Poet Laureates. We will do some research & hopefully have an experienced Port Laureate come to speak at a future meeting. There would be an application to be the town Poet Laureate. More on Poet Laureate on the agenda next month.

Commissioner Event Share: May 8 & 9, Mother's Day Weekend, there will be a quilt show at the Haddam Neck Congregational Church.

Motion to adjourn at 7:55pm by Melissa Pionzio and seconded by Rebecca Tinelle.