

Town of Fairfield
Minutes of the Fairfield Arts Commission Meeting

November 21, 2023

The Fairfield Arts Commission held a meeting on Tuesday, November 21, 2023 in the First Floor Conference Room of Sullivan Independence Hall located at 725 Old Post Road in Fairfield. The meeting was also held via Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charlie MacDonald, Matt Oestreicher, Connor Deane, Lou Heumann, Kevin Gosselin, Sam Goldstein (via zoom)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sam Cargill, Christine Orlando, Katie Lang

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Barnhart, Rista Malanca (via zoom)

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:02PM.

1. Rista Malanca, the Director of Community and Economic Development for the Northwest Hills Council of Governments (and formerly Torrington's Director of Community Development) spoke about Torrington's efforts in obtaining Cultural District designation. Highlights from her overview are as follows:

- Applications are submitted to local arts councils. In our case, we will be submitting to the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County (Erika Wesley, President).
- No actual application form exists. The application consists of a series of required elements (assets, public outreach, etc.) specified by the Cultural Alliance and the Office of the Arts.
- A Walk thru of the designated area with CT Office of the Arts officials is required once the application is received, but before final approval.
- Public comment meeting – required as final step to receiving designation.
- Members of the cultural district may be located outside of the district boundaries.

2. The minutes from the September 19th, 2023 and the October 17th, 2023 meetings were approved.

3. An Arts Commission mission statement was agreed upon and voted on. It reads.....**The Mission of the Fairfield Arts Commission is to promote and celebrate the Arts in the town of Fairfield.**

4. It was agreed that a commission logo is needed. Commissioners Gosselin and Goldstein will present ideas at the next meeting.

5. Commissioner Deane offered to lead the charge on creating an arts & culture social media/marketing campaign, partnering with Experience Fairfield.

6. Holding a public meeting/fair/forum to present the commission, the cultural designation and proposed map to interested parties in town was discussed.

7. Mark Barnhart reported that the commission received a \$1000 grant from the state. This, together with the \$1000 already in the commission's fund, brings the commission total fund to \$2000.

8. Commission Chair MacDonald will invite First Selectman, Bill Gerber, to the next meeting.

9. Commission Chair MacDonald reported that at the next meeting, December 19th, it is critical for the commission to have a quorum. All commissioners are expected to attend, even if only via zoom. New officers will be elected as well as the establishment of the CY'24 meeting schedule.

10. Mark Barnhart will explore the commission's ability to share a google doc without violating government rules and regulations.

11. Motion to close was made at 7:02 pm.

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