

Town of Fairfield
Minutes of the Fairfield Arts Commission Meeting

August 8, 2023

The Fairfield Arts Commission held a special meeting on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. 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: Samuel Cargill, Connor Deane, Sam Goldstein, Kevin Gosselin, Lou Heumann, Kathleen Lang, Charlie MacDonald, Matt Oestreicher and Christine Orlando

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Brenda Kupchick, First Selectwoman and Mark Barnhart, Director of Community and Economic Development

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:03PM.

Ms. Kupchick welcomed and thanked members for their service, and provided some background on the formation of a Fairfield Arts Commission and its purpose. The members introduced themselves and briefly summarized their work and/or interest in the arts. Ms. Kupchick called for nominations for the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary, whereupon the following slate of officers were unanimously approved:

Chair: Charlie MacDonald
Vice-Chair: Connor Deane
Secretary: Lou Heumann

Upon the election of officers, Ms. Kupchick departed the meeting. Mr. Barnhart reviewed the ordinance establishing a Fairfield Arts Commission, its charge, and standards of conduct regarding town officials. Mr. Barnhart provided a brief overview of the Town's grant policy and noted that the Commission has a budget of \$1,000. He stated that he is working with the Town's Grants Coordinator to apply for grant funding through the State in support of the Commission's work. Mr. Barnhart also referenced the work of the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County, which is the designated regional service organization. The Cultural Alliance is headed by David Green, and is planning to host a convening of local arts councils in Fairfield at the end of September, to which members are invited.

Mr. Barnhart stated that the Commission needs to establish a meeting schedule for the balance of 2023, and asked for suggestions. After discussion, the members agreed to

meet the third Tuesday of each month at 6PM in the Old Town Hall Conference Room as well as via Zoom. Mr. Barnhart advised that he would notify the Town Clerk as to the meeting schedule and the election of officers. Mr. Barnhart provided a brief overview of the criteria by which to establish an arts and cultural district and responded to questions. He noted that his office had developed an inventory of arts & cultural assets which he is looking for input from the Commission. The members discussed inviting David Green to a future meeting of the Arts Commission to provide more information on designating an arts & cultural district. Chair MacDonald discussed a request from the Fairfield Beach Residents Association for Commission members to help judge a photo contest, to which Mr. Gosselin and Ms. Orlando volunteered. The members briefly discussed goals for the organization in addition to exploring the designation of an arts and cultural district and a future brain-storming session.

The meeting adjourned at 7:08PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 19th at 6PM.