

Arts Commission Minutes
August 25, 2009

I. Call to Order

Meeting commenced at 7:44 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Attendance

Present:	Frank Alcorace	Craig Malone
	Suzanne Crean	Dave Santamauro
	Lisa D'Andrea	Melissa Teator
	Marianna Hanley	
	Aldona LaPorta	
	Charley Marengi	
	Margie Paul-Gaston	
	Ty Smith	

IV. Officer's Report

A. Secretary's Report

Minutes for the July meeting were read approved.

B. Treasurer's Report

The account has a present balance of \$6,203.90.

Aldona reported that we collected a total of \$443.89 after the 3 bucket nights at the summer concerts. That brings the scholarship account to about \$976.

V. Public Comment

None

VI. Old Business

A. Recital Series

The next recital night is Wednesday, September 9 at 7 p.m. at the Whittemore Library. Watch your e-mails to see if help is needed.

B. pARTicipate

Next event will be Saturday, August 29 from 10 – 1 on the Green. Marianna requested cash to purchase more canvasses. Ty made a motion – “*Motion to allocate up to \$100 for art canvasses.*” Frank seconded. Motion passed.

C. Poetry Reading

No report at this time.

D. Harvest Moon

Lisa passed around a work sign-up sheet for Friday, Sept. 18 and Saturday, Sept. 19. We will have pens, bears, and postcards for sale at the booth. Photo contest entries will be put on display.

E. Summer Concerts

The series went very well. The new band *Marty Q* was rained out, but there were good reports from the City Hill performance. He has already asked to return and will keep his present price. We discussed reworking some of the band contracts. Ty will begin working on next year's schedule.

F. Chalkwalk

It was very successful, holding the event during the car show. Lots of children participated, so we will do it at the same time for next year's car show.

G. Photo Contest

There are only 4 submissions so far and one week to go. We will display all the entries at Harvest Moon, but not judge them until the September 15th meeting.

H. Event Checklist

Tabled for future meeting.

VII.

New Business

A. Future Events/Ideas

In your travels, Keep aware of any new “artsy” ideas that we might be able to use.

B. Music Licensing

Ty would like to fight both licensing organizations. ASCAP has been paid for, but he has not responded to BMI. Charley feels that all the bands we hire probably already pay these organizations. Since CD and other sales have been dropping, they have taken to coming down on the common people. It was suggested that Charley and Ty get advice from the town lawyer, possibly State Attorney Blumenthal, and research municipally-funded town concerts, such as Torrington or Wallingford. Since it would take \$400/year from our budget, Charley made a motion – “*Motion to cease payment to BMI and ASCAP until we seek counsel and gain a legal opinion in this matter.*” Suzanne seconded. Motion passed.

C. Funds Re-appropriation

Ty would like the commission to address where some of our monies are going and what we are responsible to provide at various town functions. For instance, we are providing \$1600 worth of entertainment for the Harvest Moon Festival. It definitely adds to the atmosphere of the festival, but is it the Arts responsibility?

We discussed doing a children’s event on the Green during the summer, rather than doing an event for just one school during the school year. Presently, that means each school has to wait another 6 years before we can sponsor an event for them. Perhaps we could even schedule karate/dance school exhibitions during Harvest Moon. It would have a larger child impact and be a better way to spread the money.

We discussed spreading Seniors’ events out too, rather than just holding them at the Senior Center. Sue suggested combining with another local town for sponsoring larger arts events. There is a Valley Alliance that we could get in touch with, along with researching what activities other towns do.

D. USAF Bay State Winds

Lisa was contacted by the *Band of Liberty*, which held a concert for us last year. They were so pleased with Naugatuck, that they would like to send the *Winds* band to play. There is no expense on our part. We discussed having better promotion. Melissa will look into getting the United Methodist Church venue again. Presently, the available dates are Thursday, Nov. 5 or Friday, Nov. 6.

E. Miscellaneous

Lisa would like to get better response and articles from the Citizens News. Frank suggested writing to the owner of the paper. Charley suggested contacting advertisers that might be interested in their arts-interested audience. Ty and Lisa will attempt to talk with editor Callum and request a by-line or column every month for arts happenings. It was also suggested to contact the Waterbury Chamber. They have articles for CT Culture & Tourism. They need one month notice.

VIII.

Roundtable

Charley said that the “Bob Veillette Youth Recital Series” at the library has gone very well.

Bob attended tonight and enjoyed everything! The Family Music Center is also interested in sending people to our recital series.

Lisa – Next meeting will be **Tuesday, September 15 at 7:30 p.m.** Please check e-mails!

IX.

Adjournment

The meeting was called to a close at 9:15 p.m.