

**Arts Commission Minutes  
October 20, 2009**

**I. Call to Order**

Meeting commenced at 7:44 p.m. There is no quorum, so no motions may be passed.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Attendance**

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

**IV. Officer's Report**

**A. Secretary's Report**

Minutes for the September meeting were read approved.

**B. Treasurer's Report**

The account has a present balance of \$4,660 to spend by June 30, 2010.

As of 9/30/09, the scholarship account has a balance of \$887.05.

**V. Public Comment**

None

**VI. Old Business**

**A. Recital Series**

It was a very successful evening again. Next recital will be Tuesday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>.

**B. pARTicipate**

No event is planned at this time. Marianna is exploring the possibility of doing an indoor program during the winter.

**C. Poetry Reading**

The event for Thursday, Oct. 22 has been cancelled. Melissa is planning the next reading for Thursday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at Rachel's Coffehouse. She will contact Dave to set up the sound system.

**D. Harvest Moon**

The booth looked great. The display of photo contest entries was very popular and many people took entries for the next one.

**E. USAF Bay State Winds**

The ensemble sent posters which we will distribute around town. Melissa will get the bill for \$50 for heat & electricity from United Methodist to be submitted for payment. Publicity information will be sent to local papers, radio, cable, etc. Discussion on bringing the bigger band in for the summer concert series.

**F. Photo Contest**

The "Fashion" theme deadline is November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**G. Senior Prom**

Possible locations are the ballrooms in the old downtown buildings. Marianna will talk to Mr. Fitzpatrick about the Neary hall. Melissa will check Spring dates of the local school proms, so as not to conflict. We are planning for a Saturday in late April/early May. Time will be 7-10 p.m. Discussion of DJ, decorations, and refreshments will be at a later date.

**H. Children's Event**

Nothing at this time.

**I. Funds Re-appropriation**

Charley informed Ty that the Arts Commission became involved with entertainment for Harvest Moon to secure funds as part of Economic Development. We are considering less expensive entertainment for that weekend, so that we may be able to fund other large town-encompassing projects. *Riverboat Ramblers* would send their trio (\$450), instead of the whole band; teenage bands from the American Legion Friday nights could perform; Boy Scouts could possibly match our entertainment expenses, etc.

**J. Music Licensing**

Ty and Lisa met with Mayor Mezzo about this situation. His opinion is that we would be wasting any monies to fight these organizations. The opinion was the same from several other businessmen. However, if a hired band already pays a licensing fee, we can eliminate payment for them

**K. Event Checklist**

Tabled for future meeting.

**VII. New Business**

**A. Future Events/Ideas**

We are presently working on several.

**B. Summer Concerts**

Ty has all of the bands booked for the 2010 season and gave us the rundown. At this point, there are no CT cultural grants to be had for any bands next year. 4 of the 10 bands on our program are on that grant list. Ty spoke with them and they all agreed to reduce their fee by \$100.

**C. Diamond Collection**

Caesar Ruggieri suggested a Neil Diamond coverband from Massachusetts. Many town businesses are unwilling to help cover such a big ticket item because it would not be a tax write-off. Our present budget balance would allow us to cover such an event.

(Band - \$2300; NHS, fire, police, custodian - \$700) If the band will negotiate a snow clause, then Valentine's weekend is a possibility. Corresponding with that weekend, we could sell table space to local bakers, florists, jewelers, etc. We could suggest \$5 donations to the Scholarship Fund and/or Food Bank donations. This type of event has been successful in other towns. If it works, we could look for similar cover bands or a show. Frank will contact Hamden for ideas. Their commission does this type of thing regularly. If Ty needs to book the act quickly, a special meeting will be called in order to approve the funds. Please watch your e-mail.

**VIII. Roundtable**

Lisa – Next meeting will be **Tuesday, November 17 at 7:30 p.m.**

**IX. Adjournment**

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