

Londonderry Arts Council Meeting

1/11/2024

In attendance (at Town Hall Moose Hill Council Chambers):

Officers: Larry Casey (chairperson), Stephanie Miville (vice chairperson) Karen Giguere (treasurer), Stephen Lee (secretary)

Voting members: Cit Waters, Dasha Bulatova (remote), Greg Descoteaux, ~~Jan McLaughlin~~
We have a quorum for tonight's meeting.

Volunteers: ~~Richard Flyer~~, Julie Lee

Visitors: Carly

LAC WORKING GROUPS

Youth Art Contest (Karen Giguere, Cit Waters)

Literary Magazine (Dasha Bulatova, Larry Casey, Jan McLaughlin)

Concerts on the Common (Stephen Lee, Larry Casey, Steph Miville)

Arts Café (Karen Giguere, Larry Casey, Greg Descoteaux)

Note: Notes from previous meetings, left in for reference, are in italics.

Opening Remarks / Welcome New Volunteers (Larry Casey)

- Welcome!

Right To Know Statement (Larry Casey)

- Larry summarized Kirsten's presentation for Karen.
- Larry has a Town email address now. Others are waiting for their address (if they want one).

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *Kirsten Hildonen explained the requirements we need to meet.*
- *We have to meet the town charter for the LAC. Kirsten brought our original charge and the current one.*
- *She suggested we change the charge to read "no fewer than X and no more than X voting members". We will discuss this at our December meeting, when Cit and Karen are present.*
- *We are an "ad hoc" committee.*
- *Kirsten suggested that we take new oaths after we update our charge. The oath won't "expire" since we are an ad hoc committee.*
- *The Town Council appoints members to the LAC.*
- *Larry asked about how we vote a member off the board. Kirsten will investigate.*
- *Need quorum of 51% of voting members to hold a meeting.*

- 91A Right-to-Know law. Kirsten explained the law to us.
- Meeting minutes have to be posted within (5) days of the meeting.
- Kirsten explained the rules around using email for LAC activities.
- Designate “working groups” for our various activities. Give them the authority to make decisions for that activity. **Have the vote to do that in the meeting minutes.**
- The town is currently working on getting an IT service for town email addresses.
- Use BCC to email to the group. That way, if you reply it only goes to the sender.
- If anyone gets a request with “right to know”, forward it to Kirsten.
- Kirsten will look into the rules around accepting gift cards at the concerts. Is there a dollar threshold where they have to be reported?

Membership (Larry Casey)

- Steph is stepping away from the vice chair role. She would like to open it to someone else. She is not leaving the LAC.
- Stephen will continue as Secretary unless someone else would like to take the position.

Art Funding (Larry Casey, Karen Giguere)

- We added a checkbox to the COTC fundraising form that will allow a donation to be used for arts events. We stated that sponsors will be promoted at the arts events. Two sponsors checked this box. Together they donated \$1300.
- Karen will make a budget for Arts Café to show what funds she needs to support the event.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- Karen has requested we use \$500 of the Town funds to support art activities. This will go toward funding the Youth Art Contest.

Youth Art Contest (Karen Giguere, Cit Waters)

- We have (16) entrants. Only (1) in the oldest category.
- Judges are ready to go, Cit will send Greg the info to get started.
- This is the fourth year of the contest – yay!

Notes from Previous Meetings

- We voted Karen and Cit to be the “working group” for this activity. **We voted to give them authority to make all decisions relevant to this activity.**
- The theme is “Your Favorite Holiday”.
- Winners’ artwork will be displayed in the library in March.

Library Artists (Dasha Bulatova)

- Filled up (5) months so far.
- Couldn’t find an artist for January, so it was an extension of December.
- Dasha would like to step back from this program, or get some help managing it.
- Larry is going to make an account with Common Ground, which will give us more exposure to artists that we should ask about participating in the program.

- Can we use features with Mail Chimp to automate the process, ie, sending out reminders, etc to the artists?
- Display for two months instead of one, so there is less of a time commitment with this event.
- There are nine easels at the library. Maybe that sets too high of an expectation to the artists to have that much art. Maybe they don't have that much art to share.
- Dasha asked Cit and Karen if they want the Youth Contest to display for March and April. They were very positive about doing that, so Dasha put them down for those months.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *Larry suggested that we send out a request for help to the artist email list we have. Larry will send info to Cit and she will email it to the list.*
- *Larry will contact Wendy Wetherbee if she is interested.*
- *Larry will put out a press release asking for more artists. Dasha will send him the info to include.*
- *Larry will send information about the program to his contacts at the New Hampshire Art Association and the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts. Dasha will write something up for this that Larry can use.*
- *Dasha will be using Google Forms for applications once the Community Standards is approved.*
- *Dasha explained that we will be adding a vetting process to select the artists. We want to be sure that the art is appropriate for the audience (which is all ages at the library). Will use the new Community Standards that is being reviewed now by the Town.*

Literary Magazine (Dasha Bulatova, Larry Casey, Jan McLaughlin)

- No update.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *We voted Dasha, Larry and Jan to be the "working group" for this activity. **We voted to give them authority to make all decisions relevant to this activity.***
- *We discussed getting sponsors and/or advertising to support the magazine. Larry said would be happy to help with this. This may be more appropriate for the second edition of the magazine; that way, potential sponsors would be able to see a sample magazine.*
- *The name of this new publication will be Wild Apples Literary and Art Magazine. Nice!*
- *It has a dedicated email address, WildApples@londonderryartscouncil.org.*
- *Annual publication, published around May.*
- *Dasha would like to have a logo for the magazine.*

Concerts on the Common (Stephen Lee, Larry Casey, Steph Miville)

- Larry suggested not doing the early bird discount this year.
- We should bump the sponsorship levels.
- Stephen to send Larry the COTC spreadsheet.

- Received information about a new “Grant funds available to improve New Hampshire cultural facilities”.
 - “Grants will be awarded for projects that will take place between April 1, 2024 and January 31, 2025. Funding requests may be made for \$2,000 – \$25,000.”
 - “The deadline to apply for a N.H. State Council on the Arts’ Cultural Facilities Grant is February 9, 2024.”
- Working to book all the concert dates.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *We voted Stephen, Larry and Steph to be the “working group” for this activity. We voted to give them authority to make all decisions relevant to this activity.*
- *Average outdoor attendance was 592. High was 907 for Studio Two (final concert).*
- *We had a lot of help from many groups and people this year. Many thanks!*
- *Studio Two has been booked for 2024’s last concert.*

State of New Hampshire Grant Application (Larry Casey, Steph Miville, Jan McLaughlin, Stephen Lee)

- No update.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *We were awarded \$5400 for 2024!*

Mailchimp (Cit Waters)

- No update.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *Can we use this platform for fundraising? Stephen to investigate.*

Nutfield Sessions (Greg Descoteau)

- Nothing scheduled.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *Still in limbo. Folks are telling Greg that they are reluctant to play in the smallish venue.*
- *The Nutfield Sessions are normally held the last Thursday of the month. 7-9.*

Art in Action (Cit Waters, Karen Giguere)

- No update.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *We discussed the possibility of having it at the Common. Schedule it for a Saturday, with Sunday as a rain date.*
- *Another possible location is the Morrison House. We would have to have it in a tent, as the Historical Society doesn’t want live art in the barn.*

- Jan is interested in helping with this event. She will speak with Cit about it.
- Not sure if Cit has the artist email address that was used for past Art in Action events.

LAC Financial Report (Karen Giguere, Stephen Lee)

- No update.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- \$9418 on the music side.
- \$2238 on the art side.

Arts Café (Karen Giguere, Larry Casey, Greg Descoteaux)

- Karen suggested holding it on April 13.
- Greg will ask Iliana (senior coordinator) about holding it at the Senior Center again. Cost may be an issue.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- Karen discussed getting started with this in the next months.

Senior Center / For The Love of Music (Greg Descoteaux , Larry Casey)

- Next jam is January 14, 2024. This will be the forth session.
- It is a pot luck, also.
- Greg emails past participants to remind them. Typically 55 and up.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- Expecting 10-15 musicians.
- This event is held quarterly.

LAC Blog / Social Media (Dasha Bulatova, Steph Miville)

- No update.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- Steph and Jan will send ideas.

Old Home Day (Jan McLaughlin)

- No news.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- Jan's "spinning art" was a **hit** with the kids at OHD.
- We should have more help for next year – our booth and spin art activity was very popular!

Misc. Items (All)

- Discussed the Town Council charge. Larry provided an updated Charge for discussion.
- Larry made some updates based, largely, on input from Kirsten Hildonen.

VOTED TO ACCEPT - UNANAMOUS.

- Discuss voting for officers. We do not have a term limit for officers. We should appoint officers once a year, though, as best practice.
- Larry suggested that we hold the official vote in February.
- In December, folks should indicate if they want to continue or not for the following year.
- There are (7) applications for the library mural.
- Donna (head librarian) would like the judges to see the applications in person at the library. They can send their judgments in by email. She would like to have the judging done by Feb. 11.
- Steph and Ellen (the judges) will find out if they should judge together or separately.
- Karen asked about getting money for the Art side.
- Larry asked for budgets for events, so we can plan.
- Steph will put together an event planning template to help budget and plan.
- Cit started a discussion of finding a new venue for Art in Action.
- Greg suggested talking with Richard Flyer for ideas.
- We will discuss more next month.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *We will ask Sherry Farrell to come to a meeting to swear us in.*
- *Larry reached out to the NHAA - NH Artists Association. Larry is getting together in March with the plein air guy. He likes the venues that Larry put in a PPT he shared with them.*
 - *Maybe work with them to rekindle Art in Action. Cit will consider. She may want to rebrand AiA, since we are having trouble finding a good venue for the artists.*
- *The library has asked us to participate and promote in finding someone to create a mural for the children's area.*
 - *Dasha will be our interface with the library for this activity.*
 - *We will split the stipend cost of \$500 with the library.*
 - *Application deadline is Nov. 30.*
 - *We will help with the judging.*
 - *Karen and Jan will help with this activity.*
 - *Karen will send Cit and Dasha her list of local artists. They will then add artists' names that they are aware of. Dasha will be responsible for the email blast to artists.*
 - ***The committee voted 5-0 to support this, including providing \$250.***
- *Larry will write a press release asking for more LAC participants. Focus will be writers. Dasha suggested posting on social media and hosting an informal gathering. Cit suggested reaching out to seniors at LHS.*
- *Larry would like to see the LAC have better branding. Make a new logo. Use the same fonts as the COTC signage.*

- *Dasha had ideas on how to do this.*
- *Stephen sent out the COTC logo and images to the council for everyone to see. Cit has an idea she is working on. She should have something to present soon.*
- *Larry will ask Cit how she is doing on creating a new LAC logo. Hope to have it for the banner we will make for Old Home Day.*

- Next meeting is Thursday **February 8, 2024.**