

WESTPORT ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, October 13, 2020
12 noon, Town of Westport recorded Zoom Call

Present: Nancy Diamond, Richard Epstein, Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, John Dodig, Diane Lowman, Deirdre Kelly, Carole Schweid, Elizabeth Strick, Doug Tirola

Not participating: Eric Chiang, Frederic Chiu, Lee Goldstein.

Nancy opened the meeting at 12:05pm.

Nancy introduced guest, Steve Zimmerman, the new Westport Schools, PreK-12 Music & Visual Arts coordinator.

John Dodig asked Steve what plans were in place to promote the arts on line in the schools during the pandemic. Kindergarten and elementary have five 1/2hr lessons each week. It is hard to evaluate how engaged the younger students are. Middle School through High School students are engaged in art projects. Music is provided via Zoom to elementary school children. H S Band is using percussion instruments only, and the school orchestra meets twice a week, string instrument only. Steve reported that when Covid-19 is over it will take a decade for the orchestra and band to recover fully.

Town Curator: Kathie Bennewitz

“War is Not Healthy for Children and Other Living Things” 1968 Offset Lithograph by Lorraine Schneider, was donated to the Westport Town Art Collection by Ann Scheffer. A motion to accept the work was proposed. Richard Epstein so moved and John Dodig seconded. All agreed.

“Rock Paper Scissors” Approval from all appropriate boards has been received, now awaiting the Town Building Department for a permit to install. Proposed unveiling date, November 8th at 2pm.

Two online exhibitions have been streamed on the Senior Centers web site. They are; on the Towns Cartoon collection, its legacy and heritage and a 30-minute overview of twenty art works in the Town collection, including interviews with some of the artists. It was suggested that both videos should be put on the WAAC website.

Six works from the Town collection are on loan to the MoCA Westport exhibition,
“World Peace”

A small exhibit on racial injustice is planned for Town Hall. In conjunction with the exhibit it is hoped that students of color will respond to the exhibit, through their poetry and writing. Deirdre and Diane will work with Kathie to create a statement for the exhibition.

Poet Laureate: Diane Lowman

Each week a Haiku is sent to the Library for posting on their website. She has done workshops at MoCA Westport, with Elementary and Middle school students.

Haiku Trail, signs were picked up.

Diane had a number of ideas for students in the public-school system. She and Steve Zimmerman plan to meet and discuss.

Otocast:

Richard reported that making the site more accessible to all is the goal. The DMA, Chamber and Realtors need to be incorporated into promoting Discover Westport. Creating are own web site is expensive and not possible on are budget.

Richard and Nancy will contact the DMA and Chamber of Commerce to see if there is interest in partnering to do a downtown cultural tour, using Otocast.

A publicity/press person on the committee is needed. Any suggestions to be sent to Nancy and Richard.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10
AT 12 NOON**

Meeting adjourned at 1:06pm

Elizabeth Strick, Secretary Westport Arts Advisory Committee