

Westport Arts Advisory Committee Minutes

March 8, 2022

In attendance: Shobana Mani, Kathie Bennewitz, Nancy Diamond, Diane Lowman, Miggs Burroughs, Kimberly Wilson, Jerri Graham, Richard Epstein, Eric Chiang,

Absent: Frederic Chiu, Lee Goldstein, Elizabeth Strick, Dina Upton

1. Social Media Update: Dina Upton is hoping to post twice a week on Instagram, so any posts can be sent to her or Nancy. Shobana will be added as an administrator. We will develop a set of objectives on how best to use all social media platforms, including keeping the WAAC website up to date. We will encourage community artists to “like” our pages.
2. Poet Laureate: Diane discussed the process for the search for the next Poet Laureate. The press release will go out 3/15 with applications due 4/15 and announcement 6/1 (to allow for a month’s transition time). Jerri asked for a definition of poet, and she and Kimberly asked whether, in addition to a Poet Laureate position, there could be recognition of other artists: singers, dancers, and performing artists of all kinds. After a brief discussion, Nancy tabled the discussion for future.
3. Business Arts Panel: Hosted by Jen Tooker 3/9/22 @ the Westport Library including a panel discussion of how local businesses include artists in their business model.
4. Tea Talk: The two tentative topics of Virtual Art and Westport’s Art History were discussed. The group agreed that the former would work best and discussed possible focuses for the panels, including: The Democratization and Dilution of Art, and how art is created, compensated, communicated, and consumed. We agreed to devote the next meeting to solidifying plans. The tentative date is October 2, 2022.
5. Kathie Bennewitz nominated Patti Boutilier as a new member of the WestPAC board. She has lived in town since 2017 and has extensive experience in the art world. The committee unanimously recommended her nomination to the First Selectwoman.
6. The WAAC continues to look for new members and is mindful that all political parties should be represented.
7. The Library will host a panel discussion of the new Charles Joyner exhibition there on Thursday March 10, starting with a reception at 6:30.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm.

Submitted by Diane Lowman  
Acting Secretary