

Westport Arts Advisory Committee
Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 12 noon Town Hall, room 201

Present: Nancy Diamond, Richard Epstein, Jerri Graham, Diane Lowman, Shobana Mani, Elizabeth Strick, Dina Upton, Kimberly Wilson, Randa Trivisono.

Guest: Harris Falk.

Absent: Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, Eric Chiang, Frederic Chiu, Lee Goldstein, Charles Rosoff, Steve Zimmerman.

1. WestPAC update:

Randa reported, the Board of Selectman [BOS] accepted the donation of Elizabeth Catlett's work "Gossip" for WestPAC. It will be hung in one of the schools.

A meeting of the WestPAAC committee is scheduled to discuss the deaccession of art work in the collection which includes posters and faded work. These works will be sold at a later date to benefit the upkeep of the Town collection.

A learning gallery rail at the Senior Center is being installed. The first exhibit will be work by the late Howard Munce and followed by an exhibit of American Asian art.

ARPA funds are being used to engage a consultant to research art storage space for works from the collection that are not on display.

Dina suggested that Parks and Rec could use more art work in their space.

2. Poet Laureate search

Diane reported that she, Steve Zimmerman and Jennifer Bangser met to review the applicants for the Poet Laureate position. One applicant stood out, Jessica Noyes McIntee. She is warm and outgoing, works at the Pequot Library, is a teacher at the Westport Writers Workshop and a published poet. She is involved in the community and has a daughter in the Westport Schools. Jennifer Bangser indicated that Bill Harmer, the Westport Library, offered to host a passing of the torch from Diane to Jessica in June, once the position has been confirmed.

Nancy made a motion to approve recommending to the First Selectwoman the appointment of Jessica Noyes McIntee as Westport's Poet Laureate. Diane so moved and Kimberly seconded, all were in favor. Nancy will send a note to Jen Tooker reporting the outcome of WAAC's vote.

3. TEA Talk:

TEA Talk will take place at the Library on Sunday, November 6, at 2pm. In the two years since TEA Talk was held much has changed. Although we have presented topics like "Art and Technology" in the past, so much is different now that a discussion of how to present technology again ensued. Also discussed was how art brings out our voices; art and a call to action; art and social justice; make art not war. No decisions were made.

The next meeting of WAAC is June 14, 2022, Town Hall room 201
Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm

Respectfully submitted
Elizabeth Strick, Secretary