

Westport Arts Advisory Committee
Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 12 noon Town Hall room 201

Present: Nancy Diamond, Shobana Mani, Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, Richard Epstein, Lee Goldstein, Charles Rosoff David Rosenwaks, Elizabeth Strick, Dina Upton.

Unable to attend: Eric Chiang, Frederic Chiu, Jessica Noyes, Britt Steel.

Call to order: 12:00pm Nancy Diamond, Co-chair

Nancy welcomed David Rosenwaks to the committee.

Poet Laureate report:

No report this month

June Art Talk:

Shobana reported the committee came up with a plan for the Art Talk to be held in the Playhouse Barn during the Collectives exhibition in June. The program would be no longer than 2 hours and on a weeknight 6:30 – 8pm. Guests would have the opportunity to view the Collective exhibition and enjoy wine and snacks. This would be followed by a panel discussion by a local artist, gallery owner and designer. The event would conclude with an auction of 5 works of art the proceeds to go to Friends of WestPAC

It was hoped to hold this event in June but due to scheduling at the Playhouse a September date is to be found. Charles offered to be the auctioneer and Shobana will lead the panel discussion.

Sculpture subcommittee.

Dina reported the Downtown Plan (DPIC) is taking longer than expected. The re-envisioning of the parking area by the river is now scheduled for next Spring. The committee will continue to seek out work by local and CT artists for the project and make recommendations at the appropriate time. Funds will be needed for installation, transportation, and commissioning of work which DPIC will have to provide.

Additionally, the team is looking into getting sculptures on loans for parks around town. Dina will put a power point presentation on the artworks being considered.

“ART TOWN” 21”X 30” a reflective metal sculpture was proposed for the island which is a State Road at exit 18 of I 95. Kathie will speak with the Selectman’s office on how to proceed and report back.

Social Media:

Shobana reported she is speaking with a social media consultant, Canyon Sharits, about devising a plan for WAAC and the Let’s Connect Group. More at next meeting.

TEA Talk: November 5, 2023, Discussion of AI as Topic

As AI changes by the week, how should WAAC present the issue at TEA Talk? After much discussion it was felt we should focus on how AI will affect education and legal issues in the arts. Let the WAAC mission be the guide. A moderator for the event is needed. David Pogue was suggested, some on the committee felt he would take over, a 10-minute video of him discussing AI might work as an intro. Names in town were suggested who are familiar with AI. Miggs will research and report back.

WAAC NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY JUNE 13, 2023, 12 NOON TOWN HALL ROOM 201

Meeting Adjourned at 1:05pm

Respectfully submitted.

Elizabeth Strick, Secretary Westport Arts Advisory Committee