

Westport Arts Advisory Committee
Tuesday, November 14, 2023. at 12 noon, Town Hall room 201

Present; Nancy Diamond and Shobana Mani co-chairs. Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, Eric Chiang, Jessica Noyes, Elizabeth Strick, David Rosenwaks, Dina Upton.

Unable to attend: Richard Epstein, Lee Goldstein, Charles Rosoff, Britt Steel.

Co-chair Nancy Diamond opened the meeting at 12:10pm.

TEA Talk Recap.

The committee was unanimous on the success of this year's TEA Talk. The event was held at the library and focused on AI. An audience of 200 plus were engaged by the speakers at the event. The demo section prior to the event was a big attraction and Shobana was a great host.

WestPAC Update: Kathie Bennewitz.

The WestPAC committee co-chairs Ive and Ann asked Kathie to put forward the names of two possible new reps for the WestPAC committee. They are Isobel Broad from Long Lots School and Emily Zeigler, from Staples High School. After review Nancy made a motion to approve Isobel and Emily to the WestPAC committee. All were in favor.

"60's *Mod in Westport*" an exhibition of work from the Town's Collection's will be on view at MoCA Westport opening on January 18th and running Through March 3, 2024. Framing and cleaning are needed on two works, "*A Billbird*" by Ann Chernow from the Towns Bicentennial collection and "*Homage to Ben Nicholson*" by Conant, one of the earliest works acquired for the collection. Restoration and framing for each painting will cost from \$3,000 - \$3,500. Nancy made a motion to approve the funding from the WAAC account. Miggs seconded, all were in favor.

A request to plant tulip bulbs around the Doughboy statue was presented to the Historic District Commission. Kathie felt strongly against the idea. The Doughboy is a monument and a historic work of art. The WAAC committee agreed.

Sculpture Update: Dina Upton.

Dina met with Carol Eisner to discuss the possible location of her sculpture, "*Windows*" at Stroffolino Park. The work would require seven pillars set in concrete to support the sculpture and up to \$15,000 - \$25,000 to move and install. This project is on hold due to restoration at the park and securing funding. Dina also met with Niki Ketchman at Pasacreata Park. A site was selected for "*Passages*" Niki is cleaning the sculpture and making ready for transportation. Kathie will write up a proposal to present at the Parks and Rec meeting early next year for approval.

“Let’s Connect” Shobana Mani.

The social media workshop was well attended and held in the Playhouse Barn. The next “Lets Connect” will be held on Wednesday, January 24th Ashley Hyde will be invited again to lead the workshop.

Poet Laureate report: Jessica Noyes.

Jessica reported reading poems at the Veterans Day Parade which was very moving. She is in discussion with Kelly Ruden about next year’s children’s poetry competition and she is planning poetry readings for the holidays.

Please forward names of Poets for review, to take over from Jessica when her two-year term ends next year.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm

Respectfully submitted.

Elizabeth Strick, Secretary Westport Arts Advisory Committee