

Cape Elizabeth Arts Commission
Minutes of the December 12, 2006 Meeting

Stephen Popp called the December 12, 2006 meeting of the Cape Elizabeth Arts Commission to order at 7:08pm. Present were: Suzan Backer, Sara Beard Buckley, Marlee Hill, Christine Morgan, Lina Newhouser, and Jay Scherma and Steve Popp/. Not present was: Diane Brakely.

1. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Lina read the Minutes of the 11/14/06 meeting. They were accepted with the following changes:

Jay noted under "Grant Applications" that Sept. is not the CEAL's month. The last two years they had Oct. Before that they had Nov. for several years. **All approved these changes.**

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

Suzan reported the following action:

\$101.85 disbursement to HS Art teacher Mart Hart for framing the 2004-2005 permanent art collection winners.

\$1,000 disbursement for the grant to Janice Reale-Hatem for "Stories From Our Seniors: Connecting Past and Present, Person and Place"

Balance \$1898.15

Jay asked if Christine Morgan had submitted any expenses. Suzan reported "no." Steve then submitted receipts for \$39 of postage from Christine.

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Steve raised a question about the process for getting works framed for the schools' permanent collections.

Jay said that if the program is abandoned (see discussion from Nov. 06 meeting), then the question would be moot.

Lina asked where the idea to abandon the program came from.

Jay said his memory is that it was originally conceived of as a seed program to reward on a permanent basis. Steve concurred - saying he was told that it was not permanently in place. Lina asked when it was started. Jay said Bill Barton brought the idea to the CEAC, noting that Marlee may have the dates. Marlee reported that the first date she has is 1998. A wood cut print in 1998. Jay said that seemed wrong to him. Diane noted that it's not a huge expenditure. Jay noted it's about \$1,000. Steve said it's such as process. Marlee said it's good for the kids...money well spent. Sara said the whole discussion will come back when we get to the Mission. Steve asked who are we, the Capers? For the kids??...

Jay suggested a return to the agenda.

Marlee proposed acceptance of the Treasurer's Report.

All accepted as presented.

3. OLD BUSINESS

- **Instruction Sheet for New Hanging System for the Library**

Steve reported that Jim Peterson from Hanging System Inc. emailed the Hanging Instructions to Diane so she can print them out for the CEAC files.

- **Mission Statement: Sara**

Sara presented her proposed Mission Statement for the CEAC, as well as the document "Method for Creating a Mission Statement." Steve called for thoughts.

Marlee thought the idea of alternate venues was very interesting.

Sara said she's been looking at lots of arts commissions online. A lot are very interesting, eg. Chapel Hill, NC. We should all look at it. They have a sculpture project. Also do a themed project each year. She'll email the link.

Marlee asked how they do the themed project. Lina noted that it could be fun. Sara was unsure of the details.

Jay noted that we have a tradition of alternative venues: the mural in the lobby of the CE Community Services building was a commissioned piece by the CEAC. The jazz concerts happened at Town Hall. The Sock Hop was at the Middle School. The Permanent collections are hung in the schools. The Spring Concert series of classical music was held in the Spurwink Church. He said he was not lobbying for one program or another...just serving a institutional memory.

Sara observed that what she has written under "duties and responsibilities" is very vague. Steve noted that it is very frustrating - "What are we about?"

Sara suggested that it could be useful to brainstorm ideas at a meeting for an hour. Marlee said we should all come with ideas. Sara suggested not thinking about it too much. Just toss ideas out and discuss them.

Suzan said the problem is we never get to this business.

Steve summarized Sara's proposal: we should all review the written proposed Mission for the CEAC, edit it and come to the Jan. meeting prepared to brainstorm ideas.

Sara noted that we could change the whole thing in Jan. so don't come too invested in one proposal.

ACTION: Sara will email us the online link to the Chapel Hill arts commission.

ACTION: All will come to Jan. meeting with MISSION ideas to brainstorm.

- **Board Positions for 2007**

Steve opened the discussion by confirming his commitment to take over the Gallery work. Lina agreed to stay with the Secretary position. Suzan agreed to remain as Treasurer. Sara agreed to serve as Chair (as Diane is not able to continue with the responsibility.) Diane agreed to take over the Permanent Art Collection position. Two positions remain open: Vice Chair. Grants. There is a new member of the Commission: Mr. Palmquist. He can select the position he prefers at the January meeting.

Jay filled in some history on the discussion reflected in a recent email about the CEAC not continuing. He said that a while ago the CEAC was in a state of flux...a new member would come to a meeting, and then no more. There was never a quorum. Other commissions were challenged too at that time.

Suzan commented that we are so small that there is not a lot we can do in the community. We are not public enough. Jay noted that the town budget has been a scramble ...with rising school costs. Suzan responded that we should brainstorm ideas that can support themselves. Jay noted that we need to get Council support to do anything that raises or collects money. The money goes to the general fund. Suzan suggested that we have someone from the Town come and talk with us about what we can/cannot do. Steve agreed, asking what if someone wants to donate a gift to the CEAC. Jay answered that they have to give it to the Town, designated for the CEAC. The Town has the right to accept or reject it. He suggested that we send questions to the Town Manager for answers in writing. Sara suggested we draft the questions. Lina agreed to send them to the Town Manager.

Questions:

Suzan: What are the restrictions on FR for the CEAC?

Sara: What FR can we do? What is permitted?

Suzan: Can we solicit gifts? In Kind? Cash? Free Printing?.....

Suzan: If we charge admission to events, where would the funds go? To the CEAC or the general fund?

Sara requested that Lina email the list so we can add to it prior to sending it to the Town Manager.

ACTION: Lina will send a list of questions about fundraising for the CEAC to the Town Manager. She will email the list of questions from the meeting to CEAC members for changes/additions prior to sending the list to the Town Manager.

ACTION: Openings for CEAC officers/Program Directors will be filled at the January 2007 meeting.

- **Grant Applications: – Sara**

Sara reported that she had spoken with Janice Reale-Hatem. Janice accepted the \$1,000 and the dates for exhibition; she is thrilled to be doing the project.

Sara also spoke with Carla Witney about rejection of the Tibby book project.

- **Creative Capers: do we want to continue the contest in 2007?**

Marlee noted that we had already decided “no.”

Steve asked if he heard consensus.

All responded: Yes.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- **Indexing the Town’s artwork: first step?**

Suzan reported that she had talked with the Maine Arts Commission about a possible grant to support the CEAC's project of creating an inventory with photographs of the Town's collection of art. The MEAC suggested the Maine State Museum - New Century Community Funds Program as a better possible source of funding for the project.

She stated that if there is no funding available through grants, we need to commit some of our budget to the project. It will be worth it; it will have a public value. Lina noted that we had already committed some of our funds to it. (\$500-\$1,000 "Project" line in the \$3,500 budget request submitted to the Town in February 2006 - or a possible \$1,250 "Project + Creative Capers" funds line from the \$3,000 approved.)

Sara asked how many pieces are in the collection ... approximately? Jay noted that Marlee has the list that goes with the CD (Kim McClellan created the files/photos) but it does not include the schools. Sara said we could photograph them ourselves. Marlee said the list includes 29 pieces in the High School only.

ACTION: Suzan will contact the Museum for information on a possible grant for the project.

Marlee will update the list of works/artists from all three schools before she steps down from the Commission.

○ **Permanent School Collection:**

Marlee reported that the Middle School teacher was not able to make it for a meeting 11/20 to select the winners for the first trimester and requests a new date after Christmas. Steve said any Monday. Sara is also available.

ACTION: Steve will call the MS art teacher and suggest Jan. 8 @ 10 AM and let Sara and Diane (since she is taking over the Permanent Art Collection) know.

○ **New Applications for the Gallery**

Jay reported that 3 acceptance forms had been returned, including 2 that did not want receptions (including Pond Cove School) and 1 that was unsure. One new application from Jack Riddle and Mary Hall from Cumberland, ME. The work can be reviewed @ www.jackthepainter.com

Suzan asked for confirmation of Marta Carmen reception on Jan. 5. Steve said he had spoken with her on 12/12 and she does want a reception.

Lina asked what happened with Christine's request to Allen Tuttle to send us some work in person to review?

Jay responded that we had gotten an acceptance form from Allen. Thinks the CEAC communication was unclear. Steve will call him and clarify that we want to see his work.

Receptions:

May: Pond Cove School - NO

July: Janet Washburn - YES

Sept. 7: Angela Hamann – YES
October: Sara will offer it to Reale Hatem

ACTION: All will review Jack Riddle and Mary Hall work online and decide at the Jan. meeting if we want to revisit it
Steve will call Allen Tuttle to clarify that we want to see his work in person. He will also confirm Jan. 5 reception with CECS.

5. OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

Steve moved that we, as a body, allow former CEAC members to chaperone exhibit receptions. All in favor.

6. NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, January 9, 7:00 pm, at the library

All further business was postponed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:55PM.

Respectfully submitted

Lina Newhouser,
CEAC Secretary