

ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting of Tuesday, 04 December 2012
Mansfield Community Center (MCC) Conference Room

MINUTES

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 7:04p by Kim Bova. *Members present:* Kim Bova, Tom Bruhn, Anke Finger, Scott Lehmann,. *Members absent:* David Vaughan. {Blanche Serban, a faithful member since 2004, has resigned, citing competing obligations.} *Others present:* Norman Stevens, Mary Stanton (Town Clerk), Jay O’Keefe (staff).

2. Art for Town Hall. Norman Stevens, who has been helping retired UConn art professor Ken Forman find good homes for his paintings, indicated that Mr. Forman was interested in donating oils of Mansfield subjects to the Town for display at the Beck Municipal Building (our Town Hall). Mary Stanton noted that there have been discussions at the Town Hall from time to time about sprucing up the place with some nice paintings and that Mr. Forman’s offer provides an opportunity to move beyond talk. Jay suggested the Committee might help facilitate this by surveying the hallways in the Town Hall to see what space is available for paintings, how many paintings could be attractively displayed, and what sort of hanging system and lighting would be required. Tom observed that the Town accepts responsibility when it accepts donations of art works; does it have insurance? a safe place to store works not on display?

Mr. Stevens advised selecting only a few paintings from Mr. Forman, even if many were offered; the Town, he thought, should aim to build a collection of works from various artists. He mentioned that Scott Rhodes, who won the top prize in the Festival on the Green Art Show, might be willing to make a long-term loan of one of his paintings of Mansfield’s historic building. Mr. Stevens’ offer to draft a “statement of purpose” governing donations of art to the Town, which the Committee would review, was gratefully accepted. Mr. Stevens & Ms. Stanton left the meeting.

The Committee was generally enthusiastic about placing art in the Town Hall, the corridors of which are now pretty dim, drab, and uninviting. It was agreed that Committee members should individually stop in at the Municipal Building to see where paintings might be hung and what lighting would be needed. Jay will ask Ms. Stanton to look into liability and insurance issues.

Tom remarked that Mr. Forman’s problem of what to do with his paintings is one that many elderly artists face. Anke suggested that the Committee could offer to arrange for an auction of works to benefit some worthy cause, such as arts programs in the schools, perhaps at the Festival on the Green. A silent auction would not require an auctioneer.

3. The draft **minutes of the 10 July and 02 October meetings** were approved as written.

4. Co-op art gallery. Anke reported that plans co-op art gallery in Storrs Center have been put on ice. WindhamARTS is not in a position to help after all, and it has proved too difficult for those working on the project to pull together everything required to bring it off. Anke suggested redirecting effort to developing a website with information on what’s happening in the arts in this region. At present, there is no one place to go for this information. Jay thought it might be possible to run such a website on the Town’s server, using the same web-designers the Town used to set it up; he will check with the Town about this.

The Committee agreed that having such a website would be great, though building and maintaining it might be more work than we want to do. Jay thought that most of the required effort would be on the ‘front end’ – deciding what the site should look like, what should go on it, what links should be provided, etc.

5. Jay reported that the **art display policy** on the web is now up to date, though it could be posted in a more easily accessible place. He will ask the IT Department whether the exhibit application can be posted on the web as a fillable-form, so that applications can be submitted online.

6. Committee vacancies. Jay will let the Town Clerk know that the resignations of Joe Tomanelli and Blanche Serban leave the Committee with only five members (who are encouraged to suggest people who might be willing to serve).

7. MCC exhibit applications.

α. **Murray Wachman** has applied to show more oils, preferably starting 15 April. However, in recent years, the period from 15 April to 31 May has been reserved for a show of Mansfield school art – a tradition the Committee agreed should be continued, if possible. Kim will call Mr. Wachman and suggest 15 January to 14 April instead, suggesting also that the more colorful of the works photographed in his application would be best for a show “in the deep mid-winter”.

β. The **Quiet Corner Photo Club** applied some time ago to show photos of varied subjects. Tom will call to offer the summer period 01 June to 15 August and to suggest that the show feature subjects other than trees and landscapes, inasmuch as these were prominent in the Club’s 2012 exhibit of photos of Joshua’s Trust properties

Exhibit Period	Entry cases		Sitting room		Hallway	
	Double-sided	Shelves	Upper (5)	Lower (3)	Long (5)	Short (2)
8/27 – 10/14		Festival on the Green advertising & Art Show winners	<i>Carole Jeffries</i> (oils)		<i>DSS Have a Heart</i> (photos of adoptable kids)	
10/15 – 1/14					<i>Jim Gabianelli</i> (machine art)	

8. Adjourned at 8:20p. Next meeting: 7:00p, Tuesday, 08 January 2013

Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 06 December 2012; approved 08 January 2013.