

Brattleboro Town Arts Committee
1-13-15 **Draft Minutes**

Members present: Nicholas Biddle (by conference call), Kate Anderson (acting chair), Doug Cox (recorder pro-tem), Hugh Keelan, John Wilmerding, David Potter (clerk), Donna Macomber (Selectboard representative)

Guests: Gayle Wietz, Arts Council of Windham County (ACWC)

The Meeting convened at 4:03 pm in the Hanah Cosman Meeting Room. It was confirmed the meeting was warned and a quorum present.

Minutes: of 12-3-14 were approved by a 5-0-1 roll call vote.

Public Comment: None

CoreArts and the NEA grant: We discussed at some depth the three questions posed on our agenda:

- a) What is the relationship of our Core Arts representative (Hugh) to TAC?

Keelan reported that he sees his role as a voice for a broadly inclusive Brattleboro community. He is informed by discussions within TAC, but does not feel bound to only taking positions approved by TAC. He also does not feel it helpful to inform TAC of discussions underway within the Core Arts Management Team. TAC members present were supportive of Keelan continuing to represent TAC on the team with this understanding. TAC members asked for as much reporting as Keelan is comfortable with.

- b) How can TAC best contribute to the successful completion of the Our Town Grant?

Keelan sees no current clear role, but that may change.

- c) What is or should be the structure of communication and collaboration between ACWC and TAC with relation to the grant?

Gayle Weitz, the new ACWC representative to the Core Arts Management Team, spoke of ACWC as being a more active partner with the town on the grant than in the past. She reviewed the ACWC's proposal for the remainder of the NEA grant (which had been emailed to TAC members in November), and elaborated on the progress toward development of a cultural arts website (which is the first part of their proposal -- continuation of Track I.) Kate requested that she (re)send these documents for distribution to TAC members. Some TAC members supported the idea of the website and Macomber thought the Select Board likely would also if it was the best outcome. It was suggested that a joint meeting of TAC and ACWC would be useful in several ways.

It was asked what Zon Eastes role on the Management Team is as he no longer represents ACWC. Keelan and Weitz spoke to the value of having his continuing

involvement because of his history with the grant and his connections with the Vermont Arts Council (VAC). His time representing VAC will be used as in-kind match for the NEA funds.

Asked about a timeline for the completion of the grant, we were assured that public notice and involvement in the Public Art portion would be done in a timely and effective way, and that the NEA funds would be secured by the August 1 deadline.

Public Art Policy:

- a) Can TAC acquire an inventory of local public art spaces?

Biddle agreed to prepare a description of what such an inventory would include and how it could be used and maintained for our next meeting.

- b) What criteria should be included in the RFP for the Transportation Center mural?

As no one present stepped forward to work with Kathryn Turnas on this, no action was taken.

Next Meeting: The next regularly scheduled TAC meeting will be Tuesday, February 10, from 4 to 5:30 pm in the Hannah Cosman room.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm