

## Brattleboro Town Arts Committee

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Minutes prepared by Angel Francia-Mackinnon  
Hanna Cosman Room

1, **Meeting convened** at 8:08 am with quorum check

*Members present-* Adam Salviani (Chair), Doug Cox (Vice-Chair), Angel Francia-Mackinnon (scribe), Hugh Keelan, Dale Joy (new member), and Donna Macomber (Selectboard Liaison)

2, **Motion to approve the minutes from February 9, 2016**

(Approved unanimously)

3, **Public Participation**

Cox spoke to the fact that Tad Montgomery intends to attend TAC's April meeting to discuss reviving his idea of art on I-91. It will be put on the agenda.

4, **Update of ongoing projects**

A, Promotional Committee Proposal- *Salviani* has been working on this proposal, which has been endorsed by the Vermont Arts Council. He hopes it will be on the Selectboard's agenda either the 1st or 3rd week of April.

B, Artist Funding Project- *Salviani* has been working with the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation who has requested a formal application. The previous credit requirement concerns raised by some TAC members does not seem to be an issue with BDCC.

5, **Discussion of the Role of the Town Arts Committee**

"What do we want to see from our efforts, and what are the common threads?"

*Keelan* is passionate that what the arts provide be available to everyone, a whole community, and is of service to that end. He would personally like to see the Committee leave the town a better place and to grow it's capacity.

*Francia-Mackinnon* reads a list she's prepared of hopes for the committee, acknowledging that much of it is near impossible without funding:

- To facilitate rotating public art displays
- To provide an award for "Acknowledgement in the Arts"
- To maintain bi-annual press releases showcasing Brattleboro's arts/crafts
- To explore grant opportunities for town artists
- To help manage Artist Funding Project
- To be advisers for the Selectboard on arts-related endeavors
- To have a representative on the Promotions Committee
- To hold annual Arts Forums for town artists and organizations
- To have a presence at every annual Town Meeting

*Joy* is new to the committee but comments that art is what brings a community together, but it is also very political.

*Cox* believes TAC is not well situated to promote artists, and it is better for artists to promote themselves. TAC is here to help the town government be more responsive and innovative. TAC's biggest role is to be a buffer between the town and artists, since politics are intimidating since it all comes back to being accountable to the taxpayer. TAC's expertise should be as advisers, as this is not the best place to foster art, but to strengthen the government's view.

*Salviani* does not see TAC as a buffer, but a facilitator. Arts make this town great, and to quote *Keelan*, "Every time we come into this room and get things done, we help artists."

*Macomber* sees TAC as a conduit , the committee as a tool for the town. TAC gets traction with the Selectboard by presenting concrete proposals, specific projects, time-lines, even requests for funds.

Discussion begins about whether TAC can offer endorsements to local events and / or organizations.

*Cox* notes that TAC used to prepare proclamations for the Selectboard to sign. They were not so much endorsements, but more bringing especially important events / people / works that reflect the value of the town, to light. In the future, we can do this as well, then have the proclamations be distributed to / by the press no more than 3-4 times per year.

**Cox makes a motion to endorse a proclamation for the Arts Council of Windham County's ARTstravaganza to bring to the Selectboard**

(Approved unanimously)

*Francia-Mackinnon* will write the proclamation

*Keelan* wishes to hi-light unsung artists and heroes, and moves to create a "Proclamation Program."  
(Tabled until next meeting)

*Salviani* believes that everyone is all in agreement to make TAC a greater conduit for the Arts. He states we've made a lot of progress in the last 6 months, and one of the broader agendas of TAC is to be one of the most active committees in town, and continue down the road of progress.

*Cox* noted TAC's limited resources, and reminds the committee of the need for art on the walls of the Hanna Cosman room. *Joy* agrees to put energy into the process of finding suitable art to hang on the walls, then notify Jan Anderson.

*Francia-Mackinnon* suggests finding funds for TAC, perhaps by pursuing our own grants.

*Cox* wonders is we could reproduce past grant successes every few years. He also suggests that we create an annual clarification of the committee's priorities, to see what worked, what didn't, and to lay a foundation of productive use of energy.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:33 am**