

Brattleboro Town Arts Committee Meeting  
July 12, 2016  
Hanna Cosman Room  
Minutes Prepared by Angel Francia-Mackinnon

**Meeting convened at 4:03 pm with a quorum check**

Members Present- Adam Salviani (chair), Doug Cox (Vice-Chair), Hugh Keelan, Dale Joy, Angel Francia-Mackinnon (scribe), Scott Castle

**Salviani makes a motion to approve minutes from June 14**

Approved unanimously (5-0-0)

**TAC welcomes its newest member, Scott Castle**

**Salviani makes a motion to re-elect himself as chair, Doug Cox as vice-chair, and Angel Francia-Mackinnon as clerk.**

Approved unanimously (5-0-0)

**Review of Open Meeting Law for all members**

**Public Participation**- none

**Hanna Cosman Room Art Update**

- New work by Dawn Chatten is currently hanging in the Hanna Cosman Room.
- TAC discusses the guidelines for art being hung in the Hanna Cosman Room. It is agreed that it would be helpful for TAC to review the 2007 and 2009 Public Art Policy literature, to have as wide a range as possible of art on view.

**Salviani makes a motion to extend the period of art in Hanna Cosman room to 2 months**

Approved (4-0-1)

**Highway Art Project Update**

- After meeting with project initiator Tad Montgomery and Town Manager Peter Elwell, TAC will proceed to the Selectboard for approval of the project, including any additions they may require.
- VTrans will ultimately have final say, since the highway is State land, although art installations are proposed to be put on private lands visible from the highway.
- TAC is interested in being represented on a subcommittee, appointed by the Selectboard, as council and liaison during the process.
- It was agreed that TAC should not be the body that solely manages this project.

**Harmony Lot Mural Update**

- The Town Manager's office wants this mural project to go through to the Selectboard as a TAC proposal.
- Salviani volunteers to work with Karen Cribari (Youth Services) to put together a proposal by TAC's August meeting for the Harmony Lot Mural Restoration Project.
- Interest in sending the 2009 Public Art Policy to TAC members for reference when reviewing the project.

**New TAC Ideas**

-Angel Francia-Mackinnon references a prepared list of ideas from a few months ago for TAC to think about moving forward.

-Annual Award for "Acknowledgement in the Arts"- Thoughts on gift awards- art classes, art supplies, etc.

### **Francia-Mackinnon makes a motion to put together an outline to see what an annual arts award would look like**

Approved unanimously (5-0-0)

-Press Release Update- Salviani will work on the upcoming biannual press release for August review.

-Artist Opportunity Registry- Francia-Mackinnon suggests creating a database of artist opportunities, including grant deadlines, local businesses seeking artists for hire, public art spaces, etc. (This will be put on the agenda for August, for further discussion.)

-Update on Small Business Loan Program- Salviani says the Town has a small business loan program for up to \$50,000, and that it would be possible to use this in terms of the arts. Cox suggests that this would be a place for TAC to act as liaison between the Town and artists.

-Artist Town Meetings- An idea, inspired by Brattleboro's Annual Representative Town Meeting and Bellows Falls' R.A.M.P. meetings, to have artists and arts organizations come together for brainstorming and idea swapping. This would be hosted by TAC, but not to be single-handedly running them. Instead, partnering with other groups.

### **Town Public Art Spaces Discussion**

-For TAC to create a list of Town-owned public art spaces available.

-Francia-Mackinnon will move forward with contacting people about previous lists of this sort that may exist.

-Cox suggests that it would be helpful to contact Peter Elwell about what spaces the town would like to be improved with art.

-Francia-Mackinnon notes that a main mission of TAC is to "participate in the development of artistic components within municipal projects, like sidewalks, crosswalks, police station, etc.

### **Transportation Center mural idea on hold while the artist repairs the mural**

#### **New Business**

-Scott Castle has an idea to create a Harvest/Autumn festival in Brattleboro, between the Strolling of the Heifers in June and the Winter Carnival.

-Castle cites the Pumpkin Festivals in Keene and Turners Falls. Keene attracted 80,000 people at their height.

-The festival would have artist booths and perhaps an Oktoberfest aspect, looking at October 8.

-Castle will write an outline of the idea for August's agenda.

-Dale Joy suggests we place New Business at the beginning of the meeting so it gets enough discussion time and all members will be in attendance.

-Francia-Mackinnon had previously suggested we stay in session until 6pm, instead of 5:30pm, and the idea was raised to meet bi-weekly. This will be discussed next meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:52 pm**