

**TOWN OF VERNON
VERNON ARTS COMMISSION
Minutes of December 2, 2013**

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VERNON TOWN CLERK
13 DEC 11 PM 4:08

Commissioners (C) & Associate Commissioners (A) Present:

Irma Carter (C)	Lisa Ouellette (C)
Andrea Nardi (A)	Ginny Rogalla (C)
Bobbie Orne (C)	Bill Walach (C)

Guests:

Sandra Justin

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Ginny Rogala at 7:08 PM. Secretary Bobbie Orne introduced our guest Sandra Justin who is tonight an invited, interested observer and potential VAC member.

Two items were added to the Agenda by unanimous agreement:

Lisa – Invitation to Attend the Vernon Community Co-Op Meeting facilitated by Jon Roe.
Irma - Membership

MINUTES: Bill wished to have it noted that he had spoken with Historical Society member Ardis Abbot about collaborating on a possible joint program on dance (see: Nov. 2013 minutes, Item 7, Old Business). A motion was made (Irma) and seconded (Bill) to approve the minutes as amended. Unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Town Account	\$2,457.01
FVAC Account	\$1,922.86

Treasurer Lisa Ouellette distributed a detailed financial report. The VAC's budget request from the Town for 2014-2015, proposed by the Treasurer, was discussed (details - see New Business). It was agreed that the proposed amount will remain the same as this year's (2013-2014) request of \$11,640. A motion was made (Bill) and seconded (Irma) to approve the Treasurer's Report. Unanimously approved. Lisa suggested that if changes are needed in the budget she will e-mail Commissioners for permission.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Bus Trip to Hartford Stage.** Trip Coordinator Andrea Nardi reported a very successful trip on Sunday, December 1st with 35 people attending. She noted that several strategies were especially important to the eventual success of the trip: 1) use of a bus company that charged less money and 2) a renewed media and e-mail blitz just prior to the reservation deadline.
- **Meeting with Area Arts Groups:** Andrea reported that Thomasina has made contact with outside resources that may be helpful if and when a VAC-hosted group meeting/conference is planned (possibly in Spring 2014). Andrea will ask Thomasina to report at the next meeting.
- **Recruitment of Commissioners & Associate Commissioners Update:** The need continues & all VAC members need to be engaged in the effort - seriously.
- **Vernon Public School Arts Program:** Lisa will send out another round of e-mails encouraging the schools to take advantage of the funds. Irma will contact Claudia and Steve Smith about possible articles to publicize the program.
- **Outreach To Other Town Commissions and Groups:** Bill reports no further information re: Historical Society and VAC collaboration. It was suggested Bill attend a Historical Society board meeting to detail ideas and seek their input. Bill has had an initial contact with a Connecticut

Army band that rehearses in Vernon and may be interested in collaboration. Bill will continue to pursue outreach to others and report at the next meeting on his on-going efforts.

- **Free Admission to CT State Parks & Forests:** Irma will report in the Spring on this program.
- **Vernon Residents Support of VAC Trips:** Lisa reported that approximately 50% of those attending the Hartford Stage bus trip were from Vernon (vs out-of-towners). She will continue to track this kind of data with an eye to possibly requesting town financial support for residents traveling to outside art venues.
- **VAC Budget – Town of Vernon Allocation – 7/1/2013 to 6/30/2014**
See previous comments under Treasurer's Report.

Scholarships: Present = funding for four at \$500 each in four categories (Visual Arts, Music, Drama & Literary Arts). Difficulty last year in filling awards in all categories. It was felt that the language of the scholarships needed to be changed. A motion was made (Bill) and seconded (Irma) that scholarship language must state that awards would be given for the arts in general and there would be no category designations – in the application forms and in the town budget. Unanimously approved. This stance needs to be reflected in scholarship publicity which VAC members felt was needed. In summary, four arts scholarships will be awarded for a total of \$2,000.

- **FVAC Membership:** Irma reported one new membership after the end of the drive.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **E-Mail List of Town Council, Board of Education and Town Administration:** VAC agreed we need to update the list Thomasina developed and use it to publicize VAC events. No other groups were suggested. Bobbie will load the information into her computer.
- **Annual VAC-sponsored Summer HSO Bus Trip to Talcott Mountain Music Festival:** Irma noted that prices will likely increase for tickets/reservations because of the change in town funding. May need only one bus. Schedule not yet available.
- **Vernon Community Co-Op:** Lisa shared information about the kick-off meeting to be held on 12/9/13. Representatives from various community organizations are invited to attend. Organizers are Jon Roe (Tankerhoosen web site host), Nancy Strong (Strong Family Farm), and Ann Letendre (Town Council). Bobbie agreed to represent the FVAC/VAC at the meeting.
- **VAC Long-Term Planning:** It was agreed we need to meet after the holidays. January 13, 2014 will be the date for the 7 PM meeting at the VCAC. Agenda items will be discussed at the next regular VAC meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9 PM. Unanimously approved.

The next meeting will be Monday, January 6, 2014 at 7 PM in the VCAC. Bill will be the Acting Chair. Please send all Agenda items to him. It is important that you let him know if you are unable to attend.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bobbie Orne, Secretary