

**TOWN OF VERNON**  
**VERNON ARTS COMMISSION**  
Minutes of February 10, 2014

RECEIVED  
VERNON TOWN CLERK  
14 FEB 19 PM 1:36

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

Donna Barnas (A)	Bobbie Orne (C)	Sarah Iacobello - Guest
Irma Carter (C)	Ginny Rogala (C)	
Sandy Justin (C)	Bill Walach (C)	
Andrea Nardi (A)		

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Acting Chair Irma Carter. Secretary Bobbie Orne introduced guest, Sarah Iacobello, an invited, interested observer and potential VAC member

**MINUTES:** A motion was made (Sandy) and seconded (Bill) to approve the January 6, 2014 minutes as circulated. Unanimously approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

<b>Town Account</b>	<b>\$2,457.01</b>
<b>FVAC Account</b>	<b>\$2,062.86</b>

The Treasurer distributed a detailed financial report. The report was corrected (Town Account) to read (second line, 11/06/13 NOT 11/06/11). A motion was made (Bill) and seconded (Ginny) to approve the Treasurer's Report as corrected. Unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSSINESS:**

- **Membership:** Irma reported on FVAC membership. Presently 32 members:
  - \*9 patrons
  - \*13 family
  - \*9 senior/student
  - \*1 adult
  - \*0 corporate
- **Proposed Cultural Excursion to Worcester Art Museum or Springfield Museum.** Discussion indicated more interest in a Fall 2014 trip rather than Spring. Donna reported the Worcester Museum is free on Saturdays. She will investigate date possibilities (Spring & Fall) and availability & cost of a bus and museum admission prices & cost of tours.
- **New Vernon Co-Op Organization:** Bobbie & Ginny attended the initial organizational meeting in December, 2013. There were 14 attendees representing 10 Vernon organizations.  
Bobbie has attended three meetings of this new group. Organizers (Coordinating Committee) are Jon Roe, Nancy Strong and Ann Letendre. Purpose is to explore how Vernon's history, arts and preservation organizations might work together to better accomplish their missions. It is thought that by coordinating activities and sharing ideas, experiences and resources each organization might be more effective. And, further, it is suggested that each organization's challenges might be easier to overcome as a group

rather than as individual organizations. - emphasis is on volunteer to differentiate this group from another local network of organizations (VCN) who are mainly social service organizations.

Thus far, this network of organizations has been renamed the VERNON VOLUNTEER COLLABORATIVE. A guest speaker in February was Jean Egan, a local web site developer who introduced the group to the popular WordPress approach to web development. She is able to assist organizations if requested.

- **Proposed VAC Collaboration with Other Arts Organization:** The committee is proposing an informal regional meeting of arts organizations hosted by the VAC in the Spring of 2014 at the VCAC or another local location. They will be working with John Cusano from the Connecticut Office of the Arts. There will be a report at the March meeting.
- **VAC Web Master:** It was reaffirmed that Lisa will continue in this role.
- **VAC Proposed Town Budget – Fiscal Year 2014-2015.** The Treasurer distributed a detailed description of the VAC request for funds and a detailed narrative in support of the budget requests.
- **Update on VAC-funded Vernon Schools Art Programs: All elementary schools reporting:**
  - Lake Street School –** Sponsored Leslie Johnson, “Poetry Alive.” A writing workshop for their graders.
  - Skinner Road School –** Sponsored Bryan Collier, children’s author & illustrator, focusing on art, storytelling and book-making techniques (K-5).
  - Center Road School:** Leslie Johnson, “Poetry Alive.”
  - Maple Street School: Sponsored** Jenna Rodriguez, face painting artist for the Annual Spring Flair Fair at the school.
  - Northeast School: The** Lutz Museum will present a program (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grades) with focus on wildlife artists with an opportunity to observe & sketch animals.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Proposed VAC Sponsored Summer Cultural Excursion:** Irma reported that because of changes in funding this year, the proposed cultural excursion to a Hartford Symphony Orchestra summer concert at Talcott Mountain may be limited to a single bus.
- **VAC-Sponsored Program at Town Council Meeting:** Bill reported that the Vernon Chorale will present a short, 3-minute program to illustrate VAC’s sponsorship of local arts organizations. Date is February 18<sup>th</sup> during the Citizen’s Forum.
- **Requests for VAC funds:**
  1. VCAC requests \$800 to fund Anniversary Fundraising Gala on 5/10/14 – includes musicians Handler & Levesque, a graphic artist & a poet or singer. Motion (Ginny) made with second (Sandy) to award \$800 for this program. Unanimously approved.
  2. Historical Society requests \$500 for a program on dance on 6/21/14. Includes funds for a dance caller and publicity. Motion (Bill) made & seconded (Sandy) to award \$500. Unanimously approved.

3. **Publicity:** Donna requested that VAC publicize the availability of VAC-sponsored scholarships for graduating RHS students in the media. All agreed. Irma will contact Claudia re: publicity.
4. **VAC E-MAIL:** Bobbie reported a new VAC e-mail = VAC63@comcast.net.
5. **Art Program:** Donna announced that the Vernon School System's Student Art Exhibit will be held in the VCAC during the entire month of March.
6. **VAC Banner:** Andrea displayed a draft for a possible new VAC banner. Cost will be approximately \$30 from Staples. Will update at future meeting.

The next VAC meeting will be held on Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ginny will be the Acting Chair. Please send all Agenda items to her.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bobbie Orne, Secretary 