

**Exeter Arts Committee
Meeting Minutes for Jan. 18, 2018**

FINAL APPROVED

Meeting Called to Order: 5:35pm

In Attendance: Kathy LT, Darius T, Anne S, Karen D, and Irene H

Absent: John M, Dean S, and Karen N

Guests:

1. December Minutes
 - No changes
 - Approved, all in favor
2. Youth Art Month (YAM)
 - Karen D will put together and send 2nd letter to teachers, confirming dates and asking for confirmation on participation, as well as volunteers, etc.
 - Karen D will order Velcro dots for hanging
 - Kathy will reach out to Sue Noseworthy about student performers for the reception
 - Show will be 4 weekends, 3 full weeks – teachers usually help with sitting
 - Karen shared image sent in from Montessori school in Stratham, and all agreed to use in marketing
 - Darius will do certificates of appreciation for each of the participating art teachers/schools
 - Karen D will research how long the EAC has been working with SAU16 on this, and all agree to be sure we line up press for the event
3. Gallery Lighting Update
 - We received a donation from Barry and Wo Schiffman and now have the required funds to complete the lighting project
 - 22 bulbs were ordered and are now in existing lights – already brighter
 - Electrician recommendations:
 - i. 2 6-foot tracks on sides and 2 8-foot tracks into center, which will be a little more money than originally planned
 1. All in favor
 - ii. Installing dimmers to have more flexibility in brightness, which will be another \$50 or so
 1. All in favor
 - Karen D will order parts and remaining bulbs
 - Installation planned for March. Facilities will plan to work on ceiling at same time.
 - Agreed to do press release when installation is done
 - Electrician is also going to look at possibility of reconnecting recessed “canned” building lights now that usage is a fraction of availability – these can also be LED
4. Small Business Revolution Reception – Thur Jan 25th

- 630pm downstairs, upstairs about 745
 - HERON and businesses will take care of all food, etc, and most of work for reception
 - EAC will do “green room” in back for the speakers
5. Proposed Change to Bylaws
- Karen D. proposed adding the line “The EAC traditionally hosts 6-7 shows per year.” to the “Town Hall Gallery and Backroom” section of the Bylaws.
 - All in favor
6. TEAM Applications for gallery/backroom usage
- 1st application for “Arts.Sustain.Ability” for new dates of April 23-30, 2018
 - i. Discussed reminding TEAM of requirement to follow town process to apply for permission/licensing for alcohol
 - ii. Reminder that backroom is booked for open studio Friday mornings
 - iii. All in favor of approval with above 2 notes
 - 2nd application for the month of October
 - i. Discussed TEAM email at length
 - ii. Agreed that their adversarial, aggressive, harassing behavior should be addressed
 - iii. Discussed various policies, procedures, and points of bylaws that support EAC and address their points/accusations
 - iv. Agreed to send TEAM the current Bylaws with response
 - v. Agreed on approach to the response
 - vi. Agreed to copy Hadley Barndollar of Exeter News-letter on response
 - vii. Voted unanimously to deny request for gallery for month of October
 - viii. Karen D will draft a response and send to whole committee for review and further input before sending to TEAM
7. Citizens Petition Warrant Article submitted by Bruce Jones
- Updated committee on this new situation – the petition is an attempt to force the Selectboard and EAC to charge a fee of \$125 per day to any non-Exeter business/non-profit/individual using the Town Hall, first or second floor.
 - Karen D presented argument against this at Selectboard meeting on Tue Jan 16
 - The town attorney confirmed that this would be advisory only and not binding/enforceable
 - Still concerns with perception and voter understanding of the implications, that this is not in the best interest of the town, would close the doors to many advantageous possibilities, and is self-serving
 - Anne expressed that she will continue to make it clear she is not in favor of this and will express that at the deliberative session on Feb. 3
 - May need voter education and more discussion at deliberative session and leading up to voting
8. Key Issue
- Karen D was told by a community member in a meeting this week that Scott Ruffner has his own key to the building. It is not known if this is referring to the town key he had but recently returned or if he still has another copy of the key.
9. Strategic Planning
- April show will be spring themed as usual

- Agreed September show theme will again coordinate with UFO festival
 - Agreed October show will be Fall Fiber Festival
 - All in favor of sponsoring Blue Note Big Band again in December
 - Agreed March 9-11 use of 1st floor will be Music Festival
 - i. Discussed having 4-5 shows/acts
 - ii. As this is week before St. Patrick's Day, discussed seeing if Demijon is available for either Fri or Sat evening – they're from Newburyport and do Celtic and Classic Rock
 - iii. Discussed not doing something Sat Mar 10 12-4 to conflict with opening of YAM, as students will be performing in gallery
 - iv. Discussed having something children/family appropriate Sunday afternoon
 - v. Suggested everyone pitch in any other ideas as we should be booking soon
 - Agreed June 7-10 use of 1st floor would be something theatrical
 - i. John had previously mentioned possibly having a production company in mind for this
 - ii. Hoping John can pursue this
 - Discussed Sept 8-9 use of 1st floor
 - i. Originally considered for literary festival
 - ii. Another group has now started a "steering committee" organizing and meeting about a literary festival for spring 2019, which EAC can be a part of, but includes all same people we would have been reaching out to
 - iii. Discussed if we want to still do something else literary, such as performance poetry or something different that weekend, perhaps dance, or a combination
 - iv. Maybe set up a kind of coffee house atmosphere
 - v. Everyone should think about ideas to discuss again
 - *Note: John M volunteered (via email) to chair/coordinate the 3 special events in March, June, and September if wanted/needed*
 - Discussed having some form of forum/networking series, such as "artists connect" series
 - i. Possibly have panel discussions and networking
 - ii. Maybe presentations but not necessarily
 - iii. Maybe aim to start in fall
 - Irene raised discussion of volunteer outreach, organization, and coordination
 - i. She has volunteered to pursue this
 - All in favor of EAC hosting a Graphic Arts show in Feb. 2019 – possibly/probably in coordination/collaboration with Seacoast Artists Association
10. Tabled discussion of Junior Committee and EAC officers and roles for another date
11. Next meeting Wed. Feb. 21, 6:30, in the gallery

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Respectfully submitted by Karen Desrosiers