

Minutes of the Hightstown Cultural Arts Commission Meeting
Wednesday, December 17, 2014
7:30 PM
Caspersen History House
Peddie School

People Present

Mike Fabian
Sue Howard
Anne Marie Miller
Steve Misiura (liaison)
Frank Rivera
Catherine Rodrigue
Jonathan Shahn
Adam Welch

Anne Marie thanked Adam for his work for the previous meeting. She shared an article about how to build support within a community for an Arts initiative. She asked how do we get ourselves known or make ourselves visible.

Frank asked how the writer of the article said they accomplished this? She said they started with a space. Frank said we might start with a space, perhaps an abandoned space. Frank said there are a few spaces available around town. Sue mentioned that the new Twelve Farms Restaurant has offered their space for art. They prefer a farm theme for the art to start.

The group then talked about other possible connections to tap. Anne Marie said she will do what she can to set-up a Facebook page. She asked if there are other ways to communicate the presence of the Commission. Steve mentioned the Trenton Times, and others suggested US 1. The group discussed sponsoring an event as opposed to a permanent installation, which would require regular hours.

Frank mentioned the Mariboe Gallery and asked about opportunities for using that space. Catherine said she will speak with Andrew Harrison, the current director of the gallery. She said she can also check on theater availability during the summer.

Jonathan suggested looking for a smaller space. Steve said he doesn't know what will happen to borough hall, but he thought that might be a usable space. Frank asked about getting it on an agenda at Council. Steve mentioned the West Windsor Arts Center. Frank and Sue mentioned the historical society and old freight station.

Adam moved we approve the November minutes. Frank seconded. Approved minutes. Adam then asked that we approve the edit to the Mission statement.

Anne Marie Miller moved we edit the Mission Statement, approved at the November meeting, **from:**

The purpose of the Hightstown Cultural Arts Commission is to identify and promote Hightstown's creative potential, set goals for public art and culture, create educational

initiatives, community partnerships, and collaborations consistent with the town's demographic reality.

To

The purpose of the Hightstown Cultural Arts Commission is to identify and promote Hightstown's creative potential, set goals for public art and culture, create educational initiatives, community partnerships, and collaborations reflective of our town's cultural diversity.

Sue seconded. The Commission approved the edit and revised Mission.

Adam volunteered to start the Facebook. The Commission then turned its attention to the survey. The purpose of the survey is to find out who in the area makes art. Anne Marie said she took some ideas for our survey from the Woodbridge survey. Steve mentioned that his neighbor did not know where to go to connect with an Arts community. It's important to keep the survey short. It was agreed we need to identify local artists first.

Anne Marie asked about inviting Ed Garcia to next meeting. She will follow-up with him.

The Commission approved motion that future meetings be held at Peddie School.

Adam moved the meeting adjourn. Frank seconded. Meeting adjourned.