



Town of Stonington
Cultural District Commission
 152 Elm Street
 Stonington, Connecticut 06378

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Cultural District Commission
February 12, 2024, 5:00pm

Woolworth Library and Research Center
40 Palmer Street, Stonington, CT 06378

- Anthony Caporale
Regular Member
present
- R. Douglass Rice
Regular Member
absent
- Laura Hopkins
Regular Member
absent
- Gabriella Radujko, Scribe
Regular Member
present
- Paul Geise, Chair
Regular Member
present
- Elizabeth Wood
Regular Member
present
- Matthew Beaudoin, Vice Chair
Regular Member
present
- Marya Ursin
Alternate Member
absent
- Susan Lavender Fornara
Alternate Member
absent
- Sandra Alexander
Alternate Member
present
- Daniel Brandl
Alternate Member
*present and seated in lieu of
absent members*
- Jessica Cerullo
Alternate Member
absent

- 1) Call to order: Paul Geise, Chair, Cultural District Commission called the meeting to order at 5:09pm. Daniel Brandl was seated in lieu of absent members. Quorum achieved.
- 2) Douglass Rice presented this meeting’s “opening reflection.” He described how he prototyped “Celebration,” his recent steel sculpture installed on the Edith Wharton Estate in Lenox, Massachusetts, mentioning it was characteristically free of bolts and welding. He invited the membership to an opening on February 17, 2024 at the Hygienic Gallery in New London where his “raw meat” painting will be exhibited.
- 3) A motion was made by Matthew Beaudoin, Vice Chair, to accept the January 3, 2024 Special meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Brandl, all in favor. A motion was made by Mr. Rice to accept the January 8, 2024 Regular meeting minutes, seconded by Sandra Alexander, all in favor. Mr. Geise indicated that the SCD application, 197 pages long, was complete and stated that the two districts were to be known as Mystic Bridge and Stonington Village. He referenced and reviewed the February 2, 2024 email outlining the itinerary and prospective list of participating members for the March 19, 2024 Cultural District walking tour commencing at 10:30am and ending around 2:15pm. A list of prospective guests was discussed among the membership. It will be finalized at the March meeting. Swag resources were discussed. Elizabeth Wood is working on compiling a list of cultural resources to include venues such as the library, nature center, etc. Mr. Geise said that Jessica Cerullo intends to present her research findings at a later date.
- 4) Mr. Geise said the next meeting will be via Zoom. The focus will be 1/refining our identity as a commission and 2/ strategic planning “as a living, breathing committee. Mr. Rice added that our role should knit together new initiatives while supporting existing ones. Gabriella Radujko added that a check list of “what we do” compared to “what we don’t do” could be helpful.
- 5) Two projects that Mr. Geise said our commission may be invited to participate in, with representation, include 1/a proposal to establish a Poet Laureate for Stonington and 2/ a (temporary) mural for the Cutler Street underpass-10’ x 46’ and 16’ x 32’ images were mentioned. Furthermore, he indicated he would draft of a preliminary proposal to the artists from the community that worked on the Lobster Trap Tree project and the idea was welcomed by the

membership. Ms. Alexander mentioned the importance of setting a tone for the project, while Anthony Caporale mentioned outsourcing the execution/creation of the juried exhibition to a committee.

- 6) Mr. Geise made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:03pm. Mr. Beaudoin seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of connected strokes that form a stylized, somewhat abstract shape.

G. L. Radujko, Scribe