Litchfield Arts Council Minutes

Special Meeting
Wednesday, November 18, 2026 6pm
Bantam Annex
Bantam, CT

Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

Attendance—Kerry Burns, chair (via phone), Thomasina Levy, Suzanne Ribando, Barbara Buono, Lisa Bell, Courtney Murray, Karen Bartomioli

Public—None

Lisa Bell advised she had been sworn in as a new member.

Approval of Minutes—Oct. 7, 2026, Karen/Thomasina, unanimous

Old Business

b. High school student involvement update - Thomasina had not reached out yet.

c. Scarecrows in the Meadow update – We didn't win anything but agreed we were happy with our submission.

d. Continued discussion of 2026/2027 events

NWCT Arts partnership – no report
Architectural tour - Suzanne reported architectural historian Rachel Carley is not confident in her ability to lead it. Our preference is for an exteriors only driving tour.
Poetry – Thomasina will apply for grant funding. We discussed scheduling it close to Halloween, such as the prior Thursday evening, potentially at the wine bar planned for next to Arethusa.
Photography contest – Suzanne offered to chair. Courtney and Karen will complete a subcommittee. We agree there should be a separate division for professionals, to limit adult submissions to Litchfield residents and that all students attending Litchfield schools are eligible, no matter where they live. Courtney will provide a judging rubric. Judges will be our members and potential professionals (volunteer basis). We need to decide between the use of a singular display venue or local businesses. Karen noted she spoke with several who are interested in providing wall space for this or any events. They are The Abner Hotel, Rachel Martin, event sales mgr, 860.538.3821, rachel@salthotels.com; the Warner Theater (per DJ Murphy of LABA); AllPoints Century 21, Ryan and Kelly Peterson, 860.567.4611

There was discussion on the time of year to schedule each event, preferably April for the photography contest, late spring for the house tour, and fall for poetry.

e. Community survey update – Kerry reported its ready to go and will check with the BOS about ways to distribute it. We decided to send it out in January.

Financial report – Thomasina expressed her frustration in not getting responses to updates from the town finance officer. We spent $300 for IT last month, putting the balance at an estimated $8,137.

New Business – 2027 meeting calendar approved for the second Wednesday of each month at 6pm. Barbara/Thomasina, unanimous
Jan 13, Feb 10, Mar 10, Apr 14, May 12, Jun 9, Jul 14, Aug 11, Sep 8, Oct 13, Nov 10, Dec 8

Grant opportunities - Kerry reported NWCT Arts has grants of up to $2,500 available.

Meeting adjourned at 6:34pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Bartomioli, secretary

The mission of the LAC is to encourage, inspire, support, and connect people through the Arts by building awareness, promoting accessibility, and making creative opportunities.