

Commission for the Arts
Mallory Town Hall
Sherman, CT
July 10, 2025

Present: Chairperson Denise Schlesinger; Vice Chairperson Linda Hubbard; Susanna Marker; MaryJane Magoon; Ashleigh Blake(7:10); Amber Vlangas (7:10); Nicole Zegley, Recording Secretary

Present on Zoom: Christy Bonaiuto

Absent: Henry Cooperman; Terri Hahn

Audience: Empty

7:05 PM - D. Schlesinger called the meeting to order.

D. Schlesinger began the meeting with a request for a motion to approve meeting minutes from July 10, 2025. L. Hubbard made a motion to approve. MJ Magoon seconded the motion.

D. Schlesinger updated the commission on her meeting with Liz LaVia. A set limit is not in place, and any commission can request money in writing. L. Hubbard inquired as to how much time was needed for request processing, but the answer was unknown. No forms exist for these requests. D. Schlesinger to create one.

L. Hubbard and A. Blake updated the commission on the Survey Monkey responses. A. Blake stated that 7 responses were received out of 28 requests. Overall, the feedback was positive with suggestions on food and music. A reminder email will be sent out with a two week deadline by A. Blake.

A. Vlangas met with First Selectman Don Lowe regarding future grants. The door isn't closed on grant matching requirements, but they will be evaluated on a case by case basis. A. Vlangas also clarified that any grant that requires a specific budget is unavailable to the commission. Office of Arts is now not an option, but CT Humanities may for some opportunities. A. Vlangas also inquired as to whether or not commissions can fundraise and was informed that it would be a question for the town attorney. D. Schlesinger added that the New Milford Art Commission charges a fee for their tent spaces for events. L. Hubbard mentioned funding for the art brochure. A. Vlangas brought up the idea to Don Lowe and who was keen on the idea, but A. Vlangas reminded the commission that it does not guarantee funding.

L. Hubbard added an item of new business. Breezie Grenier was requesting any military themed art for the Veterans Dinner that could be on display at Charter Hall. L. Hubbard, A. Vlangas and A. Blake all felt the request wasn't made in a timely enough manner. A. Vlangas also made clear that this is not a commission matter. L. Hubbard added that there is also a hanging issue with art in Charter Hall. D. Schlesinger suggested Muriel's Flags as an option.

D. Schlesinger moved the meeting for an update on old business pertaining to the CFTA Calendar of Activities. L. Hubbard provided a calendar to the Commission to review and modify (see below attachment). A. Blake to handle Survey Money, A. Vlangas and T. Hahn to help gather information on events for July. C. Bonaiuto will do a brochure mockup/template for August. A. Blake suggested a picture, blurb, and QR code. A. Vlangas added for the record that the JCC is not a religious organization and their IRS identifier is not for a religious organization. D. Schlesinger will draft the annual report. L. Hubbard and N. Zegley will plan the Sherman Art Show for high school students.

Sherman Commission for the Arts
Calendar of Activities – 2025
Updated 7/28/2025

January

- Meeting Jan 9**
- Start Community Expo Planning – Linda (plus co-chair Lauren Webber, Conservation Commission)**
- Budget 2025/2026 Submission - Denise**

February

- Meeting Feb 13**
- Send out info Comm Expo 2025 - Linda**

March

- Meeting Mar 13**
- Start Sherman High School Art Show at Sherman Library Planning – Linda & Nicole**
- Comm Expo 2025 Participants – Linda**

April

- Meeting April 10**
- Community Expo 2025 Publicity – Linda & Terri**
- Spring Cleaning Publicity (Barn Sale, Library Soiree and Book Sale, SAA Art Supplies Tag Sale) - Linda**

May

- Meeting May 8**
- Sherman Community Expo May 3, 2025 – Linda & Terri**
- Spring Cleaning Publicity - Linda**
- Sherman High School Art Show (Canceled) – Linda & Nicole**
- Memorial Day Publicity - Linda**

June

- Meeting June 12**
- Survey to Comm Expo Participants – Ashleigh**
- Calendar of Activities - Linda**

July

- Meeting July 10**
- Survey Comm Expo Results and resend out request for feedback - Ashleigh**
- Start Gathering Info for Holiday Events – Terri & Amber**

- **Start Planning for Arts & Culture Brochure (for print and online)**
- **Christy & Linda**

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August

- **Meeting August 14**
 - **Survey Comm Expo Results – Ashleigh**
 - **Review Draft of Arts & Culture Brochure – Christy & Linda**
 - **Work with Park & Rec Re Plans for Holiday Events (holiday singing, holiday lights trail, etc) – Terri & Amber**
 - **Draft Annual Report - Denise**
 - **Start Planning Sherman High School Art Show 2026 – Linda & Nicole**
- ## **September**

- **Meeting September 11**
- **Submit Annual Report - Denise**
- **Update on Sherman Arts & Culture Brochure – Christy & Linda**
- **Holiday Events Update - Terri & Amber**

October

- **Meeting October 9**
- **Help Publicize Farm Day Oct 4 - Linda**
- **Holiday Events Update - Terri & Amber**
- **Publicity - Linda**

November

- **Meeting November 13**
- **Weekly Holiday Publicity - Linda**
- **Plans for 2026 Calendar**

December

- **no Meeting**
- **Weekly Holiday Publicity - Linda**

Note: - May 9 – June 11 Sherman High School Art Show at Library Canceled 4/24/25.

Only one submission. The project was started in January, but the process of using a focal point at the Sherman School did not work so need another process for 2026.

Note: Publicity includes press releases and posting on the CFTA facebook page. If ads or other expenditures, have to be preapproved by the Sherman Town (more info to come)

L. Hubbard also reminded the Commission that she is the only member posting on the CFTA Facebook page. Everyone needs to post, like and share. The page has gotten up to 143 followers.

S. Marker added Sherman Playhouse has Stage Readings on July 18 & 19 and 25 & 26.

D. Schlesinger requested a motion to adjourn.

S. Marker made the motion to adjourn.

A. Blake seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Nicole Zegley