

Commission for the Arts
Mallory Town Hall
Sherman, CT
August 14, 2025
Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meeting

Present: Chairperson Denise Schlesinger; Susanna Marker; MaryJane Magoon; Terri Hahn; Christy Bonaiuto Ashleigh Blake (7:13); Amber Vlangas; Nicole Zegley, Recording Secretary

Present on Zoom: None

Absent: Henry Cooperman; Linda Hubbard

Audience: Empty

7:07 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. C. Bonaiuto made the motion to approve. S. Marker seconded the motion.

D. Schlesinger created a form for requesting funds from the town. D. Schlesinger to create one. MJ Magoon inquired as to the turn around time to receive approval and funds. D. Schlesinger answered that the form needs to be approved by Don Lowe and Liz LaVia. C. Bonaiuto added that L. Hubbard had previously spoken with Don and Liz, who were both intrigued by the idea, making them believe the process will move swiftly.

D Schlesinger made an agenda change. A. Blake was a late arrival and the Survey Monkey update was moved to the end of the agenda before New Business.

C. Bonaiuto updated the commission on the progress of the Sherman arts brochure. The 6 fold brochure (23-½" long unfolded and 8-½" tall) will contain 10 organizations, the CFTA mission statement and a map of the Sherman organizations. Two printers were contacted for pricing, Keno Graphic Services in Trumbull and Millennium Printing in Gaylordsville. Keno gave a quote of \$1000 for 500 printed brochures. Millennium quoted \$1000 for 1000 printed brochures. The goal is to have the brochures printed and distributed by Farm Day. C. Bonaiuto passed a sample card stock for members to evaluate, while she explained the layout of pictures (permissions may be needed for some images), QR codes, and organization descriptions and web information.

C. Bonaiuto made a motion to spend an amount not to exceed \$1000 on a 6 fold, 23-½" by 8-½" accordion fold brochure for the Commission for the Arts.

Seconded by A. Blake

All in favor: Unanimous

D. Schlesinger updated the commission on her progress with the annual report. Denise Schlesinger and Linda Hubbard both have seats expiring in July of 2026. Charlie Gerrard and Lore Vore have both resigned. D. Schlesinger to meet with Don Lowe regarding Henry Cooperman and his conflicting schedule with the CFTA. A. Blake suggested adding the commission's activities. D. Schlesinger read through her bullet points including developing the arts brochure, the Community Expo, developing a Facebook page. A. Vlangas suggested adding information about the numerous press releases advertising Sherman events. D. Schlesinger added the creation of the CFTA activities calendar. A. Blake suggested adding the survey data. S. Marker added the inclusion of the development of the Funds Request Form.

D. Schlesinger moved the meeting to the calendar of activities. A. Vlangas updated that it is an ongoing process. Not all organizations have decided on holiday events at this early date. A. Vlangas added that press releases

can also be done to help promote the Park and Recs Holiday Lights event, if it takes place.

D. Schlesinger moved the meeting to the Survey Monkey update. A. Blake provided a handout of responses (14/25) from participants of the Community Expo. Overall, the feedback was positive, worthy of doing again. Some complaints consisted of low foot traffic, music was too loud/quiet, food to be provided, more activities for children (ice cream truck, face painting, magician, animals/adoptable pets, bounce house) to draw a larger crowd, combining the Playhouse 100th Anniversary (minuet). C. Bonaiuto suggested local Sherman magician Danny Diamond. A. Blake suggested reaching out to Bill McCann to brainstorm on other ideas.

A. Vlangas had an item of old business, Grants. In order to qualify for a municipal grant, the commission needs a \$1000 budget. A. Vlangas suggested meeting with Don Lowe to inquire if the funding for the brochure, if approved, would be considered CFTA Budget.

D. Schlesinger made a motion to adjourn.
A. Vlangas seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Nicole Zegley