

Commission for the Arts  
Mallory Town Hall  
Sherman, CT  
September 11, 2025  
Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meeting

**Present:** Chairperson Denise Schlesinger; Susanna Marker; Terri Hahn; Christy Bonaiuto; Ashleigh Blake (7:12); Nicole Zegley, Recording Secretary

**Present on Zoom:** None

**Absent:** Henry Cooperman; Linda Hubbard; MaryJane Magoon; Amber Vlangas

**Audience:** Lauren Webber; JodiAnn Eure

**7:08 PM** - D. Schlesinger called the meeting to order.

D. Schlesinger began the meeting with a request for C. Bonaiuto to update the commission on the progress of the Sherman Arts and Culture Guide. C. Bonaiuto stated that she was waiting on two final images to be updated. Jean Robbins was unable to help with the printing and New Fairfield was unable to help as well, with an increased cost of \$1500. Millennium's quote remained the best at \$1000 for 1000 printed brochures. The final copy will go to print as soon as photos are updated and the guide receives final Board of Selectman approval.

D. Schlesinger moved the meeting to the Community Expo. Lauren Webber updated the Arts Commission on feedback from the Conservation Commissions on the Community Expo participants. Suggestions for the future were food, more foot traffic, music volume, to sell goods, and participation open to other towns. Also suggested, more activities for children, face painting, games, bounce house, and a magician. D.

Schlesinger mentioned Danny Diamond as a possibility. A. Blake expressed she was opposed to selling items. L. Webber explained it was a gray area as some organizations were selling goods. A. Blake clarified that goods were not supposed to be sold during the Expo. T. Hahn explained that spring sporting events keep participation low. Lauren Webber suggested popcorn/cotton candy machines and reaching out to local realtors for sponsorships (untapped resource). D. Schlesinger suggested impersonators that dress as princesses/singers. The suggestion was made for handing out tickets for a donated prize to help track attendance/foot traffic.

D. Schlesinger requested a motion to approve the minutes from August 14, 2025. S. Marker made the motion. C. Bonaiuto seconded.

D. Schlesinger moved the meeting to JodiAnn Eure of Park and Rec to discuss the Sherman Holiday Lights Tour. JodiAnn Eure explained that families will be asked to sign up in November, to be fully decorated by the first week of December. To kick off the event a drive thru cookies, hot cocoa and maps station will be open. Judging will take place after that, possibly the following week for announcement and top three prize distribution (gift cards to buy more decorations to participate next year). D. Schlesinger inquired as to the criteria, nothing political, offensive and family friendly. JodiAnn Eure approached John Wrenn about possibly filling in financial gaps if the need arises. He was open to discussing it at the next meeting. The Commission will reach out to Don Lowe regarding the acceptance of donations, if they are being used to run the event.

D. Schlesinger informed the Commission that she met with Don Lowe to discuss Henry Cooperman's resignation. D. Schlesinger stated the Mr. Cooperman has missed several meetings in person and on Zoom (a link which is provided monthly). Mr. Cooperman approached Don Lowe requesting a date change for the CFTA meetings and was denied. D. Schlesinger advised that the position would still need to be filled and a member of the Senior Center might be interested. T. Hahn suggested bringing Charlie Gerard back.

D. Schlesinger moved the Meeting to the Calendar of Events. A Community Expo chair is needed and planning will begin in January.

D. Schlesinger announced the Expiration of Commissioners in January of 2026, it includes the chair, vice chair and all commissioners. A decision will need to be made at the November meeting, as well as 2026 meeting dates, as there is no meeting for the CFTA in December. C. Bonaiuto suggested JodiAnn Eure or Brett Pransky to fill Henry Cooperman's seat. T. Hahn suggested branching out to someone in the senior community or a younger individual from the school community.

New Business: NONE

Old Business: NONE

Public Comment: NONE

D. Schlesinger made a motion to adjourn.

S. Marker seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12PM

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Nicole Zegley