



# TOWN OF HAMDEN

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Craig B. Henrici  
Mayor

**MINUTES:** The Arts Commission, Town of Hamden held a Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 4, 2009 in the activity room, Miller Library Complex. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Charles Kortsep, Stacy Sandler, Deborah Dozier, Mark Peel, Derek Mirabilio, Lois Jason, Lisa DeGrand, Donna Elkin, George Moore, Loraine Brown, Willa Horowitz, Tracy Nista

Commissioners Absent (Excused): Evelyn Skelly, Sandy Schiff

Others in Attendance: Steve Graham, Auxiliary Member  
Mimsie Coleman, Arts Coordinator  
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk

### Call to Order

George Moore called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### Approval of Minutes

Tabled to December meeting

### Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kortsep reported a balance of \$60,350.25 in the gift fund. The Saturday Series Account has a balance of \$11,881.03. A report on the town line accounts was distributed.

### Old Business

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#### Web Site

##### Profile Questionnaire

Mark Peel distributed a list of questions intended to help commissioners do their write-up for the web site. Commissioners should forward their responses to Mr. Peel as soon as possible. Ms. Sandler reported that she has provided a link to the Silverbells Program. She will also provide links to any groups that will perform that have web sites.

#### Saturday Series

##### November 7, Improv 4 Kids

Ms. DeGrand said this is an Improv Troup from New York City. They do interactive skits based on audience suggestions with kids on stage. Volunteers should arrive at 12:30 for the 1:00 p.m. show. Ms. Jason, Mr. Peel, Iris and Ms. Coleman will work.

#### Sunday Series

October 18, Rich DiPalma – Ms. Jason said the Sunday Series opened with a bang. People love Mr. DiPalma. The weather was miserable, so the house was only  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.

#### November 8, Airborne Jazz

Ms. Sandler said there is link on the web site for Airborne Jazz and all other performers scheduled that have a web site. Ms. Coleman, Iris, Mr. Mirabilio and Ms. Elkin will work.

#### Movie Night: "Up" Friday, November 20 at the Keefe Center

Ms. Coleman said this is a great movie and will be up for several awards. Some Commissioners have seen it and agreed.

#### Silverbells: December 5

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The performance at this year's Silverbells Festival is a play based on Alice in Wonderland. All of the participants in last year's Silverbells are coming back again this year. Santa (Mr. Goldberg) will arrive at 4:30 p.m., and Judy Goldberg will be on hand to help. There will be button making, face painting and letters to Santa. The Hamden High Cheerleaders help with the button making. Ms. Sandler will do face painting. We need a sponsor for heating units. Ms. Dozier said we should check with Home Depot, Lowes or Eastern Fuel. The Rotary Club will bring donut holes and juice. There was discussion regarding the cupcake truck. Ms. Elkin, Ms. DeGrand, Mr. Kortsep will help. Ms. Coleman said we need help with setup. She will work out a schedule and email it to Commissioners.

#### Visual Arts

Dr. Office/Dave Apuzzo Gallery/Government Center

Last month Ms. Coleman and Mr. Mirabilio went to two locations in Hamden, a doctor's office on Whitney Avenue near Skiff Street wants to bring in local artists to hang works in their lobby and in a long hallway. They would plan to recycle the art every two or three months. Artwork must comply with the atmosphere of a doctor's office. The doctor is an art collector and has a nice presentation of artwork on display now. Mr. Mirabilio feels this is a good opportunity.

The second place is across from Brooksvale Avenue in the shopping strip, and is the David Apuzzo Gallery. He is a photographer. Mr. Mirabilio went to one of his events - a movie night - where he presented four short films. Mr. Apuzzo brings in the movie maker and the audience is allowed to ask questions, comment, etc. He is looking to expand the offerings and wants to open the front of his studio to artists in the community. Mr. Apuzzo is looking for help in organizing the gallery, managing his time, designing albums, etc. He wants his gallery to become a gathering place and offer motivation for other artists in the community. Marketing is also a concern. There was discussion on the artist housing on Dixwell Avenue (Johnson Building). Ms. Horowitz

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suggested Mr. Apuzzo take advantage of some time on the local cable channel. Mr. Moore said there is a group of professional and amateur photographers call the Photo Arts Collective that meets once a month. They can be contacted through New Haven Arts Council. They discuss how they market their work, what they have published, etc.

Ms. Coleman said the Government Center art needs rearranging. Mr. Mirabilio, Ms. DeGrand, Ms. Dozier and Ms. Coleman will meet outside the Mayor's Office on Friday morning at 10:00 to begin.

#### Friday Night Series

March 26: Poetry Night Featuring Richard Tillinghast

Mr. Moore said there are some issues about this artist that merit discussion. After a brief discussion, the following motion was made.

**Ms. Nista made a motion that the Commission go forward with the poetry night featuring Richard Tillinghast. Ms. Sandler seconded the motion. There was one objection. The motion passed.**

#### Coordinator's report

Ms. Coleman announced that Ms. Schiff is home and is doing well. She also reported that Ms. Skelly is stable. Ms. Coleman will help Mr. Peel with the information on Ms. Skelly for the website.

Ms. Coleman reported that we are on hold with Mik McGarry's appointment to this Commission because there will be a recount in the first district.

Ms. Coleman also reported that we did get money from the state \$7,475 for Joanie's salary. Mimsie got a list of all artists in the state which the Commission will try to put together.

#### New Business Ideas

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#### Good & Welfare

Mr. Moore announced that there was a fellow in Hamden named Armin Hemburger, who was a medical illustrator at Yale Medical School for 40 years. He was a prolific artist in all medium. Mr. Moore was the curator for a one night showing. The Metropolitan Museum of Art has pieces of his work. He lived on Thornton Street, and is now deceased. He was connected with Harvey Cushing for whom the Yale Medical Library is named.

Mr. Moore mentioned that he attended the walk sponsored by the Hamden Land Trust at Olin Powder Farm on Putnam Avenue (Fire Lakes Park). He said he saw unbelievable wild flowers, a huge snapping turtle, a catfish that must have been four feet long, and many varieties of flora and fauna. The Land trust sponsors these walks twice a year, and if Commissioners have not seen this property, they should take advantage of a tour there.

Mr. Moore mentioned that he runs the Art in the Hallway project at the Yale Medical Library.

#### Adjournment

Mr. Peel made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Nista seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk