



Minutes

Sept 29, 2010 | 10:00am – 11am | City Hall Auditorium

Commissioners Present: Diane Consolini, Steve Criss, Aurora Daly, Lynn Gelormino, Jessica Hodorski Gail Kruppa, Julia Sloan, Jacque Williams.

Members Present: Cindy Donaldson, Rose Ponte, Joann Torti, Vanessa Tringali, Bill Haygood

I. **Call To Order:** 10:08am

Motion: Steve Criss

Second: Lynn Gelormino

II. **Introduction/Welcome to any Visitors**

III. **Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes-** Accepted

Motion: Cindy Donaldson

Second: Diane Consolini

IV. **Sub Committee Reports:**

- A. **Mural Project** (Cindy Donaldson and Tom Bott) - Joann Torti from ASAP (After School Arts Project) joined the meeting today to discuss her involvement with the Mural Project. The ASAP will spearhead the mural project, which involves bringing students from Litchfield, Region 12 and Torrington together. The mural will be created by the students and muralist Matt Wood. The groups is slated to start for May and is raising funds independently, as well as using funds that the city raised for the project. It is estimated to cost around \$24,000 and take around 1 month. ASAP has done a mural project before (Waterbury's Travel Center on the corner of Bank Street and Graham Street). NWCT Arts Council will help with the unveiling. Steve suggested that the unveiling could take place around MSMP. The Committee will get to view the mural suggestions. Mr. Libby is fully on board. Torrington Historical Society will allow the students access to their Torrington Museum to prep for the project. Everyone involved is very excited and supportive of ASAPs partnership.
- B. **Harvest Festival** (Rose/Steve)- The Harvest Festival is taking place Friday, October 22nd from 5-9 and will feature a taste of the hills food sampling; farmer's market; great carved pumpkin challenge (including a non-profit pumpkin carving challenge sponsored by Founders Insurance Group); Center Cemetery tours; Rocky Horror Show; Ghost Hunters

Live; Bears on Parade; Zombie costume specials; paranormal group discussions; Yankee Pedlar tours; invite Inn Keepers to show the trailer for the film. Another possibility is a display from the Bristol Silver Screen Museum. WZBG is the official media sponsor.

C. **Singer/Songwriter Network** (Jacques)- See attachment A.

D. **TABLED ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

iv. ACT Membership – (part of By-laws discussion) Tom Bott/Aurora Daly

v. DiscoverTorrington.com –Steve

vi. Artspace: Torrington –Steve

vii. Torrington Arts Resource Report –Lynn/Steve

viii. Downtown Arts Education Collaborative –Steve

ix. Main Street Marketplace –Steve

V. **By-laws**

A. Officer Term Limits- No term limits on officers. The Commission will vote annually on officers, generally in February.

B. Membership- According to the town attorney, ACT cannot charge a membership fee. ACT could, however, form a booster club-esque group to support event. The Commission can brainstorm possible a booster club like program and present it to the town attorney. It was suggested that each ACT event seek sponsorships and fund programs that way.

C. Open Floor- Tim Wallace officially resigned from the Commission as of September 2010. Aurora Daly will officially resign from the Commission as of October 2010. She recommended Michael Yurgeles to take her place. This leaves one Commissioner position available. If any Commissioners or members have a nomination, please email it to Rose or Steve. Once the Commission has two nominations, Mayor Bingham will bring the nominations to the City Council for approval.

VI. **Commissioners**

A. Nomination of Officers:

Chair: Steve Criss

Vice Chair: Lynn Gelormino and Jacque Williams

Secretary: Jessica Hodorski

B. Accept the Slate: Accepted

Motion: Aurora Daly

Second: Lynn Gelormino

C. Official Vote: Motion and Accepted by the Commission

Chair: Steve Criss

Vice Chair: Jacque Williams

Secretary: Jessica Hodorski

VII. **Open Floor**

A. Northwest Arts Council “How-to clinic” Oct. 27

B. Park and Rec requested that Light-Up Main move to the first week in December. The ACT Commission decided to keep the date for the day after Thanksgiving. Jacque will act as a liaison between ACT and Park and Rec.

VIII. **Adjourn Meeting:** 11:18am

Motion: Jacque Williams

Second: Jessica Hodorski

Upcoming ACT Meetings

- a. Official ACT Meeting – Oct 27th 10am – City Hall
- b. Harvest Festival Committee – Every Wednesday 9am (rm. 311)

Attachment A

SINGER/SONGWRITER

NETWORK OF TORRINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT
9/29/10

Current membership: 110 members
Facebook membership: 536 members
Facebook fans: 400

One year overview

The first year for the singer/songwriter network has been somewhat challenging to say the least. We have been able to identify both established talent and talent that needs development. We have been successful in helping our artists to get access to gigs, studio projects, and information on activities both within and throughout our region. Facebook has proven to be a successful tool in helping us to keep our artists in the loop, and keeping our communication efforts current and effective. We expanded the network to facilitate other venues so as to encompass the whole of the musical creative community for more collaborative opportunities. We feel very confident that we have built a foundation for continued growth and sustainability for artist development and venue expansion.

Singer/songwriter core members:

- Mark Papallo
- Priscilla Newcomb
- Rick Sheldon
- Jay Seltzer
- Howie Nemeizer
- Jim Cattey
- Joey Sexton
- Jessie Ciazza

Activities and Event

Weekly performance sessions @ T-Place Sports Bar & Grill
Expansion of network to weekly performances @ Nirvana Health and Juice Bar
Participated in Memorial Day Parade
Singer/songwriter network dinner @ L.J.'s Barbeque, Bolton, Ct
Provided entertainment for s/s network member Jay Seltzer's Birthday Bash
Two featured performances at the Torrington Historical Society
Provided artists for our downtown M.S.M.P events
Provided support for s/s artists performing at the "Bitter End" in N.Y.C

Promoted and marketed local artists with local radio station W.A.P.J.

- **Successful completion of Singer/Songwriter Network three day one year anniversary celebration event**
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Goals and objectives for year two:

- Concerts spotlighting our featured artists with the Nutmeg Symphony Orchestra
- Expansion of network to more local Torrington venues
- Provide facebook link with Discovertorrington.com with artist bio's and performances and possible purchasing of musical compositions
- To create logo and establish a brand
- To produce and market s/s network of Torrington C.D.
- To continue to build relationship with Bitter End and other east coast venues
- To do monthly seasonal shows at the Torrington Historical Society
- Schedule, plan and implement quarterly workshops, guest speakers and seminars
- To acquire space to record and do the daily operations of the network
- To set up 5301 c non-profit status
- To solicit sponsors for downtown recording studio project
- To set up and establish publishing entity within network

I have the utmost confidence that this initiative will be beneficial to the overall music and business community here in Torrington. Everyone is attempting to tap into the vacuum that is being created in the music industry because of the technological advancements. More opportunities are becoming available to the individual artist that were not available even as recently as 3 years ago. The changing technology will allow the cream to rise to the top, and I want to stay on top of these changes. Networking is the key. Creating the proper environment that will be conducive to growth is the desired result. Keeping this organization open and available to anyone who is committed to their musical endeavors will help us to gain the notoriety necessary for recognition and participation. It is my hope that this commission will continue to provide the necessary guidance for this initiative to keep it relevant and sustainable.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacque Williams
Arts & Culture Commissioner of Torrington (A.C.T)