Swanton Arts Council Board Meeting
August 2, 2021
Swanton Public Library

Present: Bona Sylva, Khristian Jackson, VanJoe, Judy Paxman, Joanne Parah Reiter, Michelle Nordburg, David Winchester, Michael Barkyoumb, Heather Buczkowski, Hilarie Santiago, Cyl Connelly

Absent: Janet Dimick Soavi

The meeting began formally at 6:12pm once a quorum was reached.

Minutes discussed and approved with revisions. Michelle motion, David seconded, approved by all. E-votes were discussed and ratified.

- Creative Ambassador
- Governing Body Form
- Halloween in the park 2021
- Tax Deductible Donations Receipt
- Unicorn Spit Class supplies pre-purchase
- No Receipt Needed description

The MAG Raffle ticket sale was a successful fundraiser. Big thanks to Janet Soavi for making this happen! This was a great collaboration and all present expressed the hope to participate again in the future. The question was raised concerning a SAC raffle fundraiser. This topic will be reviewed by a small group consisting of Judy Paxman, VanJoe, David Winchester and Khristian Jackson. Anyone interested in participating or offering suggestions should reach out to one of these members.

Michelle Nordberg gave a brief treasurer's report noted that she has updated the SAC website to list all of the ways people can donate. Thank you, Michelle! Anyone reading these minutes are encouraged to check it out and donate!

A request was made to purchase a new lock for the storage locker. Heather has offered to provide this as a gift to the SAC. Thank you, Heather!

It was noted that two of our board members have stepped down due to other commitments. Many thanks and much praise was given to both Michael Barkyoumb and Rebecca Fagga for all of their service with the hopes that they both join in the SAC fun and games whenever they can. Joanne Parah Reiter noted that the position of secretary is now open and anyone who is interested in that position should step forward.

There was a long discussion on the Governing Body (GB) and how members should be admitted and maintained. It was suggested that a policy be created to verify membership and/or remove members no longer interested and keep things cleared up. An "annual purge" was suggested. The date of the annual meeting was discussed.

Swanton Arts Council Board Meeting
August 2, 2021
Swanton Public Library

Michelle Nordberg made a motion to create a policy for an annual purge of GB members and that this be done in time for elections/annual meeting. Seconded by Cyl Connelly with all in favor. Michelle will draft a policy for review.

Criteria for GB membership was discussed. After a brief conversation on the SAC mission and the importance of artists being paid Heather Buczkowski made a motion to change the criteria to include people who are paid or receive compensation as long the rest of the GB criteria are met and the process is followed. Seconded by David Winchester with all in favor.

Heather Buczkowski shared that she has been working with the Champlain Country Club in the hopes of using that as a future venue for SAC meetings or art socials. Heather will set a date for an art social to be held in the near future. Pins to use as giveaways were discussed. Heather made a motion for an expense of up to $30 for pins. Seconded by Cyl Connelly with all in favor. Judy Paxman shared the opportunity of Informed Swanton Project that could help with a SAC social. This opportunity was also offered to SPAN and is open to all community groups through the Swanton Public Library as part of a Spark Connecting Community Grant.

Cyl Connelly gave a report on SPAN. The 3rd board is scheduled to go up in mid-August at Maquam Beach. Many thanks to the artists who have shared their artwork with the community. Artist collaboration was discussed. The 6 week wait time between putting up art may be waived to encourage more participation. Heather Buczkowski offered to do a Spotlight on SPAN to help publicize. Mural paintings on private property were briefly discussed and it was noted that a property owner on Route 78 is interested in displaying local artwork.

It was also noted that Ashley Bowen is looking for ideas from the community for a mural at Marble Mill. There is some confusion at this meeting on what is actually happening with that mural and the location of the painting was questioned. For information on this community project, please contact Ashely Bowen.

The SAC and SPAN webpages were discussed. Michelle Nordberg noted that there have not been any recent meetings of the Tech team. The Tech team is made up of Heather Buczkowski, Michelle Nordberg, Janet Soavi, and VanJoe. VanJoe focuses primarily on Facebook and Instagram.

Judy Paxman asked the group what they would like to see for creative meetings. The following suggestions were made: technique demonstrations with opportunities to try, open studio with a craft kit, dabbler classes. The changes with mask requirements and COVID rulings will be closely monitored to ensure that all gatherings are safe ones. CDC recommendations and use of venues were briefly discussed.

Swanton Arts Council Board Meeting
August 2, 2021
Swanton Public Library

Halloween in the Park was briefly mentioned. Anyone interested in participating should contact Janet Soavi. This event is scheduled for Saturday, October 30th.

Joanne Parah Reiter announced that a business is opening in Island Pond and is looking for unique and "weird and cool pieces" of art to display. Anyone interested in learning more about this opportunity should contact us at ContactUs@swantonartscouncil.org

VanJoe announced that planning will begin soon for a Fall Craft Show to be held on Small Business Saturday (November 27th). VanJoe will reach out to Janet Soavi to get the ball rolling. Anyone interested in participating should contact VanJoe or Janet.

Other notes:

- National Night Out is Tuesday, August 3rd. We received information on this event too late to participate. It is hoped that the SAC can participate in the future.
- There will be an opening reception for the Youth Art Nook with artwork by Molly held from 4-6pm on Friday, August 6th. It is hoped that the Art Nook on the main floor of the library will be in September.
- A Micro-Business Meet Up will be held at the library on Monday, August 23rd at 6pm. This group is being led by Julie Bittner.
- Art Journaling is now in person and will be held at the library on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6pm. All are welcome and supplies from the Makerspace will be provided.
- Submissions for the Edwin Church Award are due September 1, 2021. Submissions can be made in person at the library or sent to jpaxman@swantonartscouncil.org
- The MAG is planning a fall art show called Art and Stroll in Milton Vermont as an opportunity to sell your art. $50 for members and $80 for non-members to register. For more information on this event go to www.MiltonArtistsGuild.org

Due to the Labor Day holiday, the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 7th at 6pm at the Swanton Public Library.

Michelle Nordberg made a motion to end the meeting, seconded by Joanne Parah Reiter and approved by all thereby ending the meeting at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Paxman, Creative Arts Ambassador

Swanton Arts Council Board Meeting
August 2, 2021
Swanton Public Library

Moved to next agenda

- Setting up classes for the near future (Jay)
- Halloween in the park 2021(Jay)
- Tax deductible donations receipt campaign (Jay)