

CHESHIRE PERFORMING AND FINE ARTS COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 6:15 PM

Cheshire Public Library

104 Main Street

Cheshire, CT 06410

Roll: Kristy Endriss, Susan Fenaughty, Katie Giampietro, Joyce Karklel, Donna Lodynsky, Denise Lohr, Donna Myjak, Ilona Somogyi, Youchung Torok

Committee Members Present: Susan Fenaughty, Joyce Karklel, Donna Lodynsky, Denise Lohr, Donna Myjak, Ilona Somogyi

Others Present:

Joan Pilarczyk (Director, Artsplace)

Jane Leukart

Absent:

Kristy Endriss (CPFA Committee member)

Katie Giampietro (CPFA Committee member)

Youchung Torok (CPFA Committee member)

John Gawlak (Director Cheshire Parks and Recreation)

Lynne Gannon (Cheshire Town Players)

Donna Mark (President, Friends of CPFA/Artsplace, Inc.)

Greg Wolff (Cheshire Town Council Liaison: Cheshire Performing and Fine Arts Committee)

Jill Veiga

1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM - A quorum was present for this meeting.
2. CALL TO ORDER AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG - Chairwoman Lodynsky called the meeting to order at 6:43 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. WELCOME REMARKS – Ms. Lodynsky welcomed members.
4. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS none
5. Approval of March 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes
 7. Ms. Lohr commented that Ms. Torok's name was misspelled.
Ms. Karklel made a motion to accept the minutes with amendment, Ms. Lohr seconded.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Donna Myjak
 - a. Ms. Myjak read out that 80.9% of the budget has been used and is on target.

Ms. Somogyi made a motion to accept the report, with Ms. Fenaughty seconding.
7. **Secretary's Report:** Denise Lohr
 - a. Ms. Lohr read out a thank you letter from the Cheshire Art League president, Ms. Nina White, for the support they received from the committee for their annual exhibition at the Library.

8. Friends of CPFA Report: Donna Mark

- a. No Report

9. Parks and Recreation Report: John Gawlak

- a. No report.

10. Artsplace Report: Joan Pilarczyk

- a. Ms. Pilarczyk reminded members to see the new exhibition of artwork by Mally DeSomma's students, on view now in the Mary Baldwin Room at the Cheshire Public Library.
- b. Spring Semester II is experiencing low registrations. One children's class, six adult and two workshops are currently full. Summer camps are filling up.
- c. Ms. Pilarczyk informed members that she presented the budget to the Town Council. She showed members a printout of events from the past year and comments from students.
- d. Publicity update: Ms. Pilarczyk mentioned several items that will have the Artsplace logo, including aprons, that could be used for next year's ARTSDAY.
- e. Kristy Endriss and her students worked on painting the new sign at Boulder Knoll.
- f. Ms. Pilarczyk recently attended the Greater Waterbury Arts & Culture Collaborative meeting.
- g. Three new teachers have been hired for evening and Saturday classes.

11. Old business

- a. ARTSDAY: Ms. Fenaughty and Ms. Somogyi reported that the event was successful with positive comments from participants. Ms. Lodynsky mentioned that several people were not able to take part who had registered but that others made up the numbers at the door.
- b. Home and Garden Show report: The event took place on March 28th. Artsplace provided temporary art tattoos and stickers for children.
- c. Ms. Lodynsky reported that the next exhibit at the Cheshire Public Library will include art my members of the Cheshire Art League and the June presentation will include Artsplace students. Ms. Lodynsky mentioned that 210 people came to the booth in the morning session. Ms. Pilarczyk mentioned and showed photos of the two paintings that were created by participants. Emily Lennon made the background for the activity. Both adults and children participated in this activity. Town Historian Diane Calabro was present with an activity featuring Cheshire cats, which were also made by both adults and children. These drawings will be miniaturized and used for the 250 Town wide celebration in the form of a book.
- d. Ms. Pilarczyk reported that Emily Lennon led the "chalk it up" event at Bartlem Park. The weather was much cooler this year resulting in fewer participants, with only 80 of the 100 registered taking part.

12. New Business

- a. Ms. Myjak mentioned the 2026 CPFA scholarship recipient's names. Their identities will be announced formally during the June meeting, when they will receive their awards in person.
- b. Ms. Lodynsky mentioned the upcoming Arts Festival on April 23-24 upstairs at *ReRead Books* and distributed the flyer provided by Ms. Lynne Gannon detailing the event. The 2026 Shakespeare in the Park play presented will be *Twelfth Night* in August at Bartlem Park.
- c. Ms. Somogyi invited members to the May 2nd opening of the *Artcade* mural by artist Don Carter, featuring birds and desserts. It is inspired by the native birds around *Rails to Trails*. There will be two art projects related to birds and ice cream on that day at Artsplace. The same

day will include a second annual Jane's Walk and Mr. David Arai will give an architecture tour. This event happens prior to the *Great Give* coming on May 6th and 7th.

d. The next CPFA meeting will take place at 6:15 at Cheshire Public Library on May 19, 2026.

Motion was made by Ms. Myjak to close the meeting and seconded by Ms.Lohr..

The meeting ended at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by A.Wnuk