

Westport Arts Advisory Committee

Tuesday, February 10, 2026, Town Hall room 201

Present: Nancy Diamond, Paul Davis, Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, Ginger Donaher, Eric Chiang, Richard Epstein, Amie Greenspan, Lee Goldstein, Jilda Manikas, William Palmer, Charles Rosoff, Elizabeth Strick, David Rosenwaks, Ann Boberski and Jennifer Fridland WestPAC

Unable to attend: Donna Dish

WestPAC show. Nancy reported the issue with funding for the exhibition was resolved. Ann Boberski reported “*Art, Jazz + the Blues*” exhibition opens next Thursday, February 26 and will run through June 7. There will be a members preview from 5 – 6pm, open to all from 6 – 8pm with an admission of \$10 seniors \$8. The First Selectman has been invited to the opening. On Saturday February 28, a film screening of “*Leadbelly*” (1976) directed by Gordon Parks and followed by a Q+A with Professor Sheila Curran Bernard, author of a book about Leadbelly.

Poetry update: Donna Dich, absent no report this month

Sculpture: Kathie Bennewitz updated the committee on “*The Couple*” a donation to the Town by Susan Malloy. After discussion with her son Timon it is hoped to move the work to Riverside Park. Before the move, “The Couple” will be disassembled and cleaned and put in storage till a date to install is confirmed. Paul will work with Parks and Rec and the Town Conservation Commission to established setbacks at the site. **Kathie** will follow-up with Timon in the next couple of days.

Gary Lee Price’s sculpture “*Circle of Peace*” which was originally at Save the Children is to be re-located to the library. The anonymous donor will cover all costs. Paul will research with the Town on how to proceed on Conservation issues. **Nancy and Kathie** will set up a meeting with Kevin Christie for his unofficial approval for the move. “*Rock Paper Scissors*” needs restoration and cleaning. An estimate is needed to continue. Canal Park needs clean-up of invasives along the riverbank and a new sign. **Paul** will follow up with conservation and Parks and Rec on how to proceed.

Jilda Manikas has been in touch with arts organizations and Museums in search of sculpture’s for the Westport parks. The Newberger Museum is interested in the project. Jilda will give a talk at the Senoir Center on sculptors in the area. David Rosenwaks has been researching possible privately owned areas around Town where sculpture could be placed.

TEA Talk: Nancy Diamond reported that she does not yet have a confirmed November date with the library. **Paul** suggested for the event a retrospective and visual presentation on the Art, Music, and Film by artists past and present, who lived and worked in Westport. Also suggested a talk on the history of the Minute Man statue. Nancy suggested looking at the history of film, theater and music for the past 250 years.

Westport will celebrate 250 years in May. **Miggs** suggested inviting photographers, professional and amateurs to record the life of Westport on May 28th.

New Projects: Nancy Diamond suggested “Make Music Day” on June 21st. Westport musicians and organizations could join the world in celebrating and encouraging music in our Town. Someone on the committee would have to head that up.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE MARCH 10, 2026, TOWN HALL, ROOM 201 AT 12 NOON.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm

Respectively submitted

Elizabeth Strick, Secretary

Westport Arts Advisory Committee