

**CROMWELL CREATIVE DISTRICT**

Town of Cromwell – Mayor’s Office, Attn. Cromwell Creative District

41 West Street, Cromwell, CT 06416

[www.cromwellcreativedistrict.org/](http://www.cromwellcreativedistrict.org/) [cromwellcreativedistrict@gmail.com](mailto:cromwellcreativedistrict@gmail.com)

**Meeting Minutes (Teleconference)**

**September 26, 2020**

**9:00 am**

**Call to Order:** The teleconference was called to order at 9:02 am.

Present: James Demetriades (JD), Ann Grasso (AG), Rosemary Matus (RM), Joan Pendleton (JP), Joan Foose (JF), Erika Doolittle (ED), Christine Demkowych (CD), Katie Daigle (KD)

This was a special organizational meeting to establish Cromwell Creative District as a nonprofit corporation on its own, rather than as a division of Cromwell Arts Alliance. Notice of the Directors meeting was waived.

**Appointment of a Temporary Secretary:** AG moved and RM seconded that JP be appointed temporary secretary. All in favor; motion passed.

**Appointment of a Temporary Chair:** RM moved and AG seconded that JD be appointed temporary chair. All in favor; motion passed.

**Approval of the Agenda:** JF moved that the agenda be approved; RM seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

**Public Comments:** KD introduced herself as a new member, RM’s neighbor. CD also introduced herself as new to the area,

**Roll Call:** special roll call because of organizational meeting. In attendance:

James Demetriades 272 Skyview Drive, Cromwell, CT 06416

Ann Grasso 70 Strand Circle, Cromwell, CT 06416

Joan Pendleton 43 Spruce Lane, Cromwell, CT 06416

Christine Demkowych 965 Elm Commons Drive, Apt. 200, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Joan Foose 3 Vincy Drive, Cromwell, CT 06416

Rosemary Matus 4 Blackhaw Drive, Cromwell, CT 06416

Katie Daigle 3 Arrowwood Drive, Cromwell, CT 06416

Erika Doolittle 551 Main Street, Cromwell, CT 06416

**New Business**

1. Acceptance of State-approved Articles of Incorporation: AG moved to accept the state-approved articles of incorporation; KD seconded. All in favor; motion passed.
2. Director Elections: JF moved and RM seconded acceptance of JD, AG, and JP as directors. All in favor; motion passed. JD is the registered agent.
3. Adoption of corporate bylaws: JF moved to adopt the revised bylaws; RM seconded. One abstention; all others in favor. Motion passed.
4. Election of officers:
   1. AG nominated and RM seconded nomination of JD as chair; no other nominations from floor. RM moved and JF seconded motion to close nominations. Vote to elect: one abstention; all others in favor. JD elected chair.
   2. JP nominated and RM seconded nomination of AG as vice chair; no other nominations from floor. JF moved and RM seconded motion to close nominations. Vote to elect: one abstention; all others in favor. AG elected vice chair.
   3. RM nominated and AG seconded nomination of JP as secretary; no other nominations from floor. RM moved and AG seconded motion to close nominations. Vote to elect: one abstention; all others in favor. JP elected secretary.
   4. AG nominated and JP seconded nomination of RM as treasurer; no other nominations from floor. JF moved and AG seconded motion to close nominations. Vote to elect: all in favor. RM elected treasurer.

**Chair’s Report (James Demetriades):**

1. Articles of incorporation received from Secretary of State’s office. Didn’t apply for certificate of good business standing because not yet required. JD and AG worked on, and RM completed, nonprofit 501(c)(3) application. More documents may be required by IRS.
2. ED had suggested painting a Pride/Rainbow crosswalk and joining with another community group in this endeavor. JD is on the LGBQT Committee in Cromwell and took the idea there; the group is very open to working with CCD on this. They suggested a walking fundraiser in conjunction with the crosswalk. A committee to get this project going will be formed; ED will be part of it. More than one crosswalk will be considered. JD and ED will attend the next CAA meeting to explain the project and see whether CAA also wants to participate. Where the crosswalks go will determine whose approval is needed.
3. Halloween Happening: sponsored by Cromwell Children’s Coalition; CCD will have a static scene (graveyard). JD will be reviewing the site; JD, AG, RM involved.

**Vice Chair’s Report (Ann Grasso):**

1. The Community Foundation of Middlesex County (CFMC) grant request was submitted to fund the Paint by Number project anticipated for spring and summer 2021. CCD applied as a division of CAA. AG gathered the data for pricing of most of the materials for the mural and wrote the information up. Erin Trousdale interrupted her studies to select the preferred brushes. RM provided the CCD financial information; JP edited the written materials. Julie Petrella formatted all materials and did the taxing job of inputting into the grant format. Submission was Sept. 21. The grant request is $4,000. Notification is December 28, 2020. (CFMC may contact CCD if they have questions. Contacts may be with JD as chair, and AG for Paint by Number specifics.)
2. AARP Community Living Grant: CCD is considering applying for a grant under the area of public art. This requires senior involvement, so older members will be recruited to help paint. The grant would be used for murals on two businesses that have requested them: Cromwell Energy and Rail 99. Cromwell Energy has mentioned the possibility of a mural with flowers, dogs, or dinosaurs. Rail 99’s building will be harder to paint from a design point of view because of the clapboard. The grant is due October 21; will learn in November.
   1. KD suggested using the dinosaur whose tracks are found at the state park in Rocky Hill. AG suggested incorporating the river into the mural as well.
   2. For Rail 99, which is right on the railroad tracks, AG suggested a large bench painted on the wall, with a diverse group of people. Figures wouldn’t have to be realistic.

**Treasurer’s Report (Rosemary Matus)**

1. Balance is $2,555.97; $275 will be deducted for payment to receive nonprofit status.
2. RM reminded members that PayPal monthly donations are possible.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership (Erika Doolittle)**

1. Recruitment of Friends continues. Having the support of Friends helps with grants and community recognition.

**Publicity (No chair yet; report given by James Demetriades)**

1. **Rare Reminder**: Doing a good job reporting on CCD, though it repeated the Scarecrow Search headline for an article about Halloween Happening.
2. **Chair**: Committee still needs a chair.
3. **Interview**: Erin Trousdale interview will be sent soon for editing and proofreading but will be held for publication.
4. **Newsletter**: goal is to get out an end-of-year issue; next year, it will be quarterly.

**Social Media**

1. JD is posting on three Facebook sites, especially with information about Scarecrow Search. Instagram also needs to be updated.
2. CCD is currently paying someone to help with website; JP has figured out how to upload minutes.

**Old Business**

1. **Pierson Park Dugouts: completed.**
2. **Scarecrow Search: Sept. 13–Oct. 30**
   1. AG, ED, JF, and Jen Tallman did a wonderful job getting this project done.
   2. One person found all 32 scarecrows and submitted a collage.
   3. Need to encourage people to participate in all the activities, such as writing and drawing, not just taking pictures. There are lots of prizes.
   4. Businesses wonder whether the event will continue in future years; CCD can present it again, or businesses can take ownership.
   5. KD: Learned about businesses through Scarecrow Search; even those not participating are being discovered.
3. **Audio tour:** Four of seventeen houses have responded and were enthusiastic about participating. JD and Richard Donohue will go door to door after the election.

**Approval of the Minutes**

AG moved that the minutes of the August 15, 2020, meeting be approved. RM seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

**For the Good of the Organization**

1. RM noticed that the CCD banner was no longer up on Main Street. AG: It blew down during the tropical storm and its frame was bent. Stu Popper was under the impression that it was supposed to be put away for the winter so didn’t order a new bracket—but that is being done now, and it will be put back up.
2. AG: It’s getting close to the deadline for discussion of the right of first refusal on the sewer garage. This would be a matter of “adaptive reuse of existing resources.” Community needs performance and meeting spaces. She will be meeting with Town Manager.

**Adjournment**

JF moved to adjourn at 10:16 am. AG seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Pendleton, secretary

Meetings for CCD in 2020 and 2021 will be held on the third Saturday of the month at 9:00 am in the Senior Center dining room. They will be held by teleconference while Covid-19 restrictions are in place.

**2020**

October 17

November 21

December 12 [second Saturday]

*Please note change for December meeting.*

**2021**

January 16

February 20

March 20

April 17

May 15

June 19

July 17

August 21

September 18

October 16

November 20

December 11 [second Saturday]

Meetings for CAA in 2020 and 2021 will be held on the first Monday of the month at 6:00 pm in the Cromwell High School media room. They are also being held virtually for now.

**2020**

October 5

November 2

December 7

**2021**

January 4

February 1

March 1

April 5

May 3

June 7

July 5

August 2

September 13

October 4

November 1

December 6

**To-Do List**

All members:

1. Keep track of your volunteer hours for CCD and report to RM at the end of the month.
2. Offer ideas to AG about community needs and ways to help, both during this shutdown and afterwards, as well as ways to keep CCD strong.
3. Think about family and friends who might be interested in joining CCD and recruit them. There is a new Friends category, which indicates support for the organization but not active membership.
4. Visit Pierson Park and take photos with the dugouts; post to Facebook; tag CCD.
5. Participate in the Scarecrow Search and other activities. Although members can’t win prizes, you can submit writing and art anonymously. Post pictures on social media.

All committee chairs: Send a brief summary of what you will say at the monthly meeting in advance to the secretary.

JD: Get information on Amazon community contributions.

JD and ED: continue discussions regarding crosswalks

AG: Speak to Town Manager about Pierson Coal Building

JP: Update website payment method