

Milton Artists' Guild
Minutes for January 21, 2016
Held at Mary Ann Duffy Godin's House

Attendance:

Gisela Alpert, Michael Purcell, Dave Lesperance, Christina Lesperance, Doris Bergeron, Elisabeth Finstad, Lorraine Manley, Amy Cook, Gary Walls, Lori McLaughlin, Greg Drew, Marianne Godin, Colleen Bunnell, Linda Stech, Jane Morgan, Ellen Young, and Frank Mason.

Agenda

Yearly dues need to be paid by March 1st. You may send a check to MAG, P.O. Box 369, Milton 05468 by mail, bring it to the February meeting, or pay via PayPal on our website.

Events Proposals:

Two events have been proposed using the Proposal Form.

{Open Discussion}

The first proposal is for the MAG to lease a booth for this coming summer at the Milton Farmer's Market. The market is bigger and better than previous years now that it is held at the green next to Hannaford. The market runs every Thursday between mid-June and mid-September from 4-6:30pm. The membership cost for the entire season is \$100, would will be paid by MAG. It was proposed that the booth will be sub-rented to various MAG artists (doubling up would be fine also) for \$10 per week, whereby the MAG recoups the initial cost.

Points of discussion:

- Hannaford is a destination that improves the probability and success that there will be a large amount of traffic being exposed to the artist of the week.
- Some people may want more than one week, and sharing the booth (a 10x10 foot space) would allow more artists to participate.
- All members who have paid their yearly dues are eligible to participate; attendance at monthly meetings is not a requirement.
- Factors that would make this difficult:
 - Weather. Screen tents/awnings might be necessary, although they are not required, if it rains or is very hot and sunny. Not everyone has a tent. Betsy volunteered to loan her screen tent out if needed.
 - Some MAG meetings are held on Thursday nights
 - Some people who want to participate may not be able to get home from work/school/etc. in time to set up.
 - There is a possibility of a fine imposed on the MAG if no one shows up for their prearranged slot, as it would affect that week's booth layout of the market. We

may need to have some kind of backup call list of artists who are able to set up quickly and take over the slot.

- There were 2 special 'craft days' last year at the Farmer's Market, one in the middle of the season and one at the end.
- The member's booth cannot sell anything other than arts and crafts. No flowers, veggies, etc.; the market organizers limit categories of booth types.
- Emails from members unable to attend the meeting came in and were mostly supportive.
- For more specific information visit the Farmer's Market website here:
<http://miltonyouth.org/farmers/>

We took a vote, and it was unanimous to proceed.

The second event proposed is called "Come As You Art". Colleen Bunnell owns Bear Trap Nursery in Milton and has generously offered to let MAG members who wish to hold demos outside (or in her greenhouse if the weather turns on us) during her business hours. She has running water, electricity, a Port-O-Let, wireless internet, and advertising can piggyback on the advertising she already does for her nursery. She holds full insurance for the property, and the artists would be responsible for their own work. We would create a waiver for that particular day if it happens. There would be NO charge to the MAG or participating artists. The point would be to do something fun, enjoy each other's company, and get exposure for the MAG and individual artists. We would be allowed to sell without commission, however it would not be a traditional booth setup.

Points of Discussion:

- Can we involve the high school art students, maybe have them join us if they want to demo their own craft? Is Project Graduation something that could be involved?
- Gisela, Tina and Tana are meeting soon to find ways to involve the community children in MAG events already.
- Possibly have a meeting at the school so the students can attend? Will time of year affect student participation?
- Will the time of year be a problem? We have not set a date yet, and did not want to get into that until we are sure that everyone wants it to go ahead. We are thinking a Saturday in May when traffic at the nursery is high.
- Weather is always iffy in Vermont in the spring, it can be muddy, windy and buggy. A rain date may need to be made.
- Having food trucks/pot luck/etc. has not been determined. It may not be necessary as most people coming through would not be staying for long periods of time.
- This would be similar to the successful Trunk Show in the Islands held by Grand Isle Art Works.

For this event to be successful it will take a lot of volunteer work. People interested in participating will need to be involved in setting it up. This event's focus is on FUN, not sales! We want to keep it casual, as uncomplicated as possible, but we will need to use our creativity to make it happen. No money has been allocated for this event in the budget.

This will be discussed further at our February meeting.
The vote was yes, unanimous.

Exhibits

Presented by Linda Stech:

Thank you to all who participated in the Passageways exhibit! It has now been installed at LCATV. There were a total of 20 artists with 26 pieces displayed. Linda has filmed a promo video to run on LCATV, and they will be advertising the display in their newsletter. LCATV is offering a reception for us. Please email Linda if you are in favor of a reception.

March is Youth Art Month, so the Community Gallery has been reserved for this. Courtney Reckord has asked if anyone has frames to donate to the kids participating. We have no info on sizes needed. If you have any size frames to donate please contact Linda via email and let her know what kind of frames you have. It was mentioned that Goodwill and Christmas Tree Shops are good places to get cheap frames.

Betsy volunteered to photograph exhibits at the library and Community Gallery and post them on Facebook (with participant permission) to generate interest and create more traffic.

There are several openings for the upcoming year for exhibit opportunities at LCATV, Biotek, and the town office/library. MAG is now managing the Community Gallery space. The Library now has the glass case in the front available for three dimensional art. Advanced notice is needed to use that case. Gisela is going to check into a way to display 3D art at Biotek.

We have several new venues for exhibits!

- The Law Office of Matthew Little, located at 138 Route 2 in South Hero (next to the Blue Paddle Bistro) would like a 2 month rotation. He would need to install a hanging system. There is also a gallery walk in South Hero near his office, Amy Cook said she will see if he can be added to it.
- The US Attorney's Office (% Amy Sterns), located on Elmwood Avenue in Burlington is also offering us space to exhibit. They also need a hanging system.
- Union Station in Burlington has again reached out to see if we want to exhibit there. There is a new director, Sarah Drexler, who is involved in reviving Arts Alive. March is available. It was mentioned that they take 40% commission (Arts Alive), so Linda is going to inquire and will email the membership about March. Church Street has had art in storefronts downtown so we will see if we can get in on that.
- Build A Bagel in St Albans has a long, narrow space and they would like us to display there. Diane Daniels is the manager. The owners may want to jury the work. Please email Linda if you are interested in displaying there.
- E.B. Strong Restaurant, located on Church Street in Burlington has early summer open. For any exhibit interest, please contact Linda to get you on the schedule. For Biotech, email Gisela.

We talked about adding the MAG logo and info to exhibits. We are always looking for volunteers for this committee! Please contact Linda if you can help.

Posters

Gisela visited 20 venues. 17 were interested. Matthew Little wants one. Our 2016 budget lets us add 5 more for future venues. Unfortunately our original deal through Green Mountain Camera has expired, and it is hard to find a printer that uses MDF board. We will be using The Village Frame Shop in St Albans. Through our fundraising efforts we hope to be able to offer 10-20 more next year. Any active member can contribute to the Poster Project. We need new images to take the places of the 17 that have been taken. Email Gisela for directions.

Other possible venues for the future are Mirabelle's and Biotek. There is no guarantee an image will be picked, even if it seems it would be a good fit for the venue. We need suggestions for new places to try. Some suggestions were Rail City Market (St. Albans), Martones (Essex), 14th Star Brewery, Citizen Cider, Phoenix Bookstore (Burlington), Conant's Lighting, St Albans Creamery, Jeff's Seafood, UVM Davis Center/bookstore, Claussen's Greenhouse, NWMC in St Albans (Hospital), Stitched (Shelburne), Georgia Walk In Center, Long Trail Physical Therapy (Milton).

Members can buy their own poster if desired! The cost is \$85 plus the 6% Vermont sales tax. Please let Gisela know ASAP if you want to order yours as we need to order in bulk to get the discounted price.

Thank you to Gisela for all her hard work on this project!!

MAG Committees

Most chairs are staying on. Barry will no longer be putting the newsletter out. If anyone is interested in taking over let Gisela know. Gary Walls volunteered to try it for one edition (it would be bi-monthly). Tina will help with editing.

The Nominating Committee will be chaired by Amy Cook. This Committee needs one more volunteer; please contact Gisela if you would like to help in this very short time committee. We would like the process to be more transparent so people know who is signing up for what, who has accepted, etc. earlier on in the process. Nominations will start in April.

Workshops

The MAG has started offering workshops based on interest, but no one is signing up. There will be a Facebook workshop February 15th from 7-8:30 at the Blue Jay Creative Common studio in

Milton. The GPS address is 321 Ethan Allen Highway. Be sure to put Milton as the town or it will take you to Georgia. Betsy Finstad will be hosting the workshop. Cost is \$5/member, limit 6 people. Future Facebook workshops can be scheduled if enough interest is there.

Dave Lesperance will be giving his workshop on photo manipulation on February 24th from 6-7pm at the Milton Town Office Community Room.

Contact Gisela if you would like a detailed list of the dates/workshops available in February.

Other Topics

- Amy Cook brought up the idea she had with Sarah Rosedahl about sharing a studio assistant. Because it can cost quite a lot to have a full time assistant, she was wondering if there were any other members with studios who might want to find someone they could share. Suggestions for assistants would be welcome. They would perform duties such as cataloging, framing, cleaning, etc.
- Gary Walz knows someone who is opening a consignment shop and was wondering if anyone in the membership had experience with that kind of business that his friend could talk to for advice.
- Frank Mason shared that he has set up a Facebook page for Sue's art. It is called Whimsical Watercolors by Sue Lawrence Mason.

Show and Tell

- Our newest member, Ellen Young, shared some of her beautiful oil paintings that she had done on canvas board. We are very happy to have her as a part of the group!
- Doris shared 2 vibrant acrylic paintings. Be sure to visit the Community Gallery to see her Folk Art prints!
- Jane Morgan shared a collection of ink drawings that she had done using a new technique she learned recently. She is doing one ink drawing a day for the month of January. The technique uses Speedball pens and water, which Jane reported is difficult but gives very nice results.
- Dave Lesperance shared a large format print of a forest that he had done using Kent Scrivener's printing service. Kent gave a workshop at the beginning of January on printing, internet safety, and other photography related topics.
- Marianne shared a sketch of the Milton Grain Elevator she had recently done.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20PM

Respectfully submitted by Betsy Finstad