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**Jennifer Johnston-Marius**  
*Director*

**Regular Meeting  
Town of Vernon Cultural District Advisory Board  
Tuesday, June 27th, 2023 at 6:30 pm  
Rockville Public Library, 52 Union Street  
Vernon, CT**

APPROVED

RECEIVED  
VERNON TOWN CLERK  
23 AUG 14 AM 9:54

**Present:** Jennifer Johnston-Marius, Bree Maxwell, Tammy Eldredge, Jim Sendrak, Liz Bologna, Ken Kaplan

**Not present:** Leslie Campolongo, Robin Castro, Sandra Justin

1. Call to Order – Role Call by Jennifer Johnston-Marius, 6:38 pm
2. Approval of Minutes – Bree Maxell motions to accept the minutes as presented. Seconded by Liz Bologna. Unanimously approved.
3. Old Business:
  - a. July in the Sky
    - i. Giant Puppets have been contacted. They will be hired to provide two giant puppets to wander the downtown area from 6 – 8 pm. Bree offered her space for them to set up. Jennifer will be in contact with them to recommend places to park and give them the address for Bree’s studio. Jennifer will also handle payment.
  - b. Application Update
    - i. We discussed the pieces of the application that we have completed. It was decided that it would be a good idea to request to see the applications that have been approved as a Cultural District in the state thus far. Jennifer said she will get in touch with the Liaison and request to see the applications.
    - ii. We discussed the municipal resources that would support the Cultural District and compiled a list, as this is a requirement of the application.
    - iii. We talked about a timeline to complete the application, and Jennifer stated that she believed that with just a few things left to complete, that we should be able submit to our liaison in September, 2023.
    - iv. Marketing of the Cultural District, once official, was discussed. We also talked about the need for a logo. Tammy volunteered to look at the 5 communities that already have an official State designation, and see what kind of marketing and logos they have.



4. New Business:

a. Website

- i. Jennifer updated the group that she spoke with Dave Owens, the Town's Communication Specialist. He said that he is able to create a page on the town website for the CDAB. We discussed the content and it was decided that we should have our vision, goals, the video Ken created, a group photo of members and a list of events that the CDAB is supporting/participating in. Jennifer will send this information to Dave and we can take a group photo at the next meeting.

b. September History Day at NE Civil War Museum

- i. Discussion about possible activities that the CDAB could provide for the History Day occurred. Jim asked what the date event takes place and Tammy confirmed that it is September 30<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 3 pm. There was discussion about focusing on different aspects of the Civil War, such as the women, art/library, Black soldiers, etc. Tammy mentioned a woman that she saw that talked about the fashion and showed the various layers of clothing that a woman wore during this time period. Having a storyteller was another idea that was discussed. Focusing on what was happening here in the Vernon area during the Civil War was also recommended. Tammy will look into cost and more info about the woman she mentioned.

c. National Night Out

- i. It was recommended that we consider attending National Night Out, which takes place on August 1<sup>st</sup>. A lot of discussion occurred regarding what kind of activity we could provide. Handouts didn't really make sense, as we don't have anything. The group finally settled on having a large canvas, with wording yet to be determined, and have participants put their handprint using paint on the canvas. It could be a representation of our community. There was also an idea of displaying the canvas, after the event, in various areas around town. Bree volunteered to look for a canvas and pricing. Liz will look into paints needed and Jim will speak to Tom DiDio to run idea by him.

5. Member comments, questions. – None

6. Adjournment - 8:20 pm Jim motion to accept. Seconded by Bree. Unanimously approved.

*Jennifer Johnston - Davis*  
8/8/23

