

**Windsor Locks Arts Council  
Special Meeting Minutes  
Windsor Locks Town Hall  
Central Conference Room  
January 15, 2026**

1. **Call to Order and Member Roll Call:** Julie Aligata-Seymour called the meeting to order at 6:02PM at the Windsor Locks Town Hall in the Central Conference Room.  
*Present:* Julie Aligata-Seymour, Lisa Caruso, Matt Brown, Cathy Simoneau, Jessica McKinney, Karen Velez & April Sweeney  
*Absent:* Kevin Gagnon
2. **Public Input:** None
3. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Matt made a motion “**to accept the minutes from the November 13, 2025, meeting**”. Cathy seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the motion passed with 4 votes in favor, 2 abstentions and 0 opposed.
4. **Budget Review and Expenditures to Date:** Matt shared a budget update with council members. The current expenses to date are \$2,931.33. There is \$6,568.67 remaining in the budget. The financial report is being worked out to create a clean copy and the current donations amount. It was noted that the donation funds will be used towards the scholarship.

*April Sweeney arrived at 6:04 PM.*

5. **Correspondence and Communication:** Received a letter from Dollars for Scholars. The ceremony is May 12 and Arts Council members will attend. In addition, North Street School PTO shared with the council that they are having an event on February 20 from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM at Town Hall and asked if Arts Council would like to take part. Jess, Lisa, and Karen offered to attend and will help with a craft.
6. **Old Business:**
  - a. **Email List & Website Progress Report:** Matt shared that he is working on sending an email for HOF nominations. He noted that the website is up to date with future activities.
  - b. **EW Arts & Culture Collaboration:** Lisa shared that nothing is planned at this time. In recent discussion with the EW Arts & Culture group, it was suggested to do a two-part art activity, one part in Windsor Locks and one part in East Windsor.
  - c. **Luppoletto Brewing Open-Mic:** Julie shared that there will be a Luppoletto open-mic on January 17 and February 21 from 6 PM to 8:30 PM which the Arts Council will promote. It has been well received.
  - d. **Soliciting Donations:** No update.

- e. **Photo Contest:**It was shared that there are five entries for the Photo Contest. Entries are due by January 20and will be hung by the beginning of February.It was discussed opening the contest to area towns to increase participation for future contests. Discussion occurred on how to display the photos.
- f. **Art Scholarship Criteria:** Mattshared that the scholarship application is complete. The scholarship is focused on music arts.
- g. **Student Art Showcase & HOF Ceremony:**The Student Art Showcase & HOF Ceremony will be held on March 26 at the WL Senior Center at 6:30 PM. Jim Roche will be donating art racks to the event for art displays. Discussion occurred on programs, invitations, photos, and food options. Matt shared that Student Art Showcase notifications have gone out to all the schools. He shared that the HOF information was in the Journal Inquirer and will be posted on the website and social media.

## 7. New Business:

- a. **Art Classes:** Classes that were suggested were jewelry making, terrarium making, 3D printed items, video editing, hair macrame, pottery and graphic art. Collaborations suggested were Mondazzi Book, Bead & Crystal and Windsor Locks Library.
- b. **Band Proposals for Summer Concert:**Julieshared ideas for bands for summer concert. Discussion occurred about findingfresh styles of music to reach a broader audience. It was also suggested to have a local student band as an opener for a concert.
- c. **Public Art:**Julie shared that Jim Roche approached the Arts Council to create art connected to the grist mill display. The council discussed the idea and how they may be able to facilitate it.

Topics discussed for future public art projects were installing string art or cup art at Pesci Park's fences.

- d. **Recording Secretary (February Meeting):**Tabled.

## 8. Public Input: None

- 9. **Open Discussion:**Julie updated that there is new art at the rotating art exhibit at Town Hall. It is from Inspire Arts Group, which is a group of artists with varying disabilities.

Discussion occurred on social media management and ways to reach people.

It was discussed to order swag soon. Ideas discussed were pens shaped like a paint brush and magnetic chip clip bags.

Discussion occurred on creating recycled art during April for display in May for Earth Day. This will be discussed more at the next meeting.

ArtOber Fest ideas were discussed on how to expand the art part of the festival. It was noted that Jason Hamilton will not return for the ArtOber Fest this year.

**10. Adjournment:** Matt made a motion "**to adjourn.**" April seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the motion passed with 7 votes in favor and 0 opposed. The meeting ended at 7:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Kalenauskas  
Recording Secretary