

Belmont Art Association Meeting: June 5, 2018

Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas brought the meeting to order after a potluck supper in Dari Paquette's beautiful home. Members in attendance: Nicole Bernstein, Christine Chang, Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas, Erika Hartweg, Richard Hill, Tony Kantor, Anne Katzeff, Mary Lee, Diane Mahke, Dari Paquette, Linda Salter, Jane Wentzell

The Survey And The Future Of Belmont Art Association

The main topic of discussion at this meeting was the future of the BAA and the survey sent to members and potential members on BAA's Mail Chimp email list. Only 23 people received the survey; 172 should have, and that issue was supposed to be remedied a few days later.

The purpose of the survey is to poll members and artists in Belmont to find out what direction for the BAA they would support and get involved in. In past years the BAA attracted more dues-paying members than it has in 2018, and we can do more things if we have more members.

Naomi's comment was, "Christine was our power plant, and now she's moved away. We need a lot of solar cells to replace her, and that's all of us." It is up to the membership to carry on Christine's legacy.

We have a BAA members' show scheduled at the Belmont Gallery of Art in April 2019. To make it feasible we need to have everyone contribute to the work involved.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for July 17th at 7pm in the Assembly Room of the Belmont Public Library. The survey results will be discussed and future plans made.

Pending Belmont Cultural Council Co-Sponsored Events

There are three more public events planned for fall: Fiber Self-Portraits in September, Kumihimo Beading in October, and Painting Canvas Floorcloths in November. For further information, refer to the April BAA meeting minutes on the BAA website. Additional PR will be broadcast in the fall.

Farmers' Market Activity Tent

The BAA has been asked to organize and run a 1.5 hour children's food-related arts and crafts event, date to be determined. The Farmers' Market Organization will supply the materials. Interested volunteers should contact Naomi via telephone or email. Her number is 617-851-6409.

The McLean Barn

The brick McLean barn is located on former McLean Hospital land. It is set back from Mill Street near the Community Gardens and is visible from Mill Street. The barn has 5000 square feet of floor space on two floors. There is electricity but no plumbing or

interior finishing. It is an historic building unused for many years, and Town Meeting has awarded it Community Preservation Funds to stabilize it.

There was discussion at the meeting of working to turn the barn into an arts center encompassing art, music, and theater. This would require the town's support and the approval of the Historic District Commission. Also an architect and a fundraising manager would be needed. This idea has been under discussion by Rebecca Richards, head of the Belmont Gallery of Art; Will Brownsberger, our state senator; Ellen Cushman, Town Clerk who is also on the Historic Commission; and Adam Dash, selectman, so there is an opportunity for the BAA to get involved.

Recording Secretary, Jane Wentzell