

Belmont Art Association Meeting: February 28, 2023

Location: This Zoom meeting was brought to order by Co-Chairs Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas and Dari Paquette. There were 13 people present.

Attendees: Sheila Benedis, Nicole Bernstein, Karen Berman Mulligan, Juliette Carignan, Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas (Co-Chair), Irene Fairley, Bert Halstead (Treasurer and Membership Coordinator), Kirstin Ilse, Anne Katzeff (webmaster), Lauren Palmer-Merrill, Dari Paquette (Co-Chair), Fleur Thesmar, and Jane Wentzell (Recording Secretary).

Business Meeting

1. Lauren Palmer-Merrill reported on her work to get a table for artists at the Belmont Farmers' Market every Thursday this summer. Her proposal has been accepted by Hal Shubin, director of the BFM. This is for the 26 weeks (June-October) that the market is open, for 26 artists. Two artists could possibly share a week and a table. BAA members receive priority scheduling. The \$400 fee will be paid by the BAA upfront, and artists will pay approximately \$23/week, plus they are required to obtain liability insurance for each day they participate (to cover dispute or injury). To get more information and apply to be a vendor, visit the BAA website at <https://belmontart.org/2023/03/23/belmont-farmers-market-artisan-booth-2023/>
2. Utility box update: Our yearly public art project, "Transforming Belmont," is now funded for 2023. Three of the boxes will be sponsored by the Belmont Cultural Council and two additional boxes are funded by private donors. Box locations are chosen in consultation with Glenn Clancy, the Town Engineer.
Two of the boxes are located along Concord Avenue in front of the high school; the third is on School Street at the intersection with Common Street near St. Joseph's Church; the fourth is at the intersection of Sycamore and Lexington Streets, on Sycamore. This box was installed to control a new crossing light erected after a mother was killed while walking her children to the Butler Elementary School a few years ago. The fifth box will be a redo of Ian Todreas's famous "Dogs of Belmont" box at the corner of Slade Street and Trapelo Road, which unfortunately has not weathered well. This box will be repainted thanks to the generosity of local realtor Anne Mahon. The box near St. Joseph's will be painted thanks to the kind donations by friends and family of Belmont artist Russell J. Badessa, a longtime resident who enjoyed painting in his later years. His funeral was at St. Joseph's last August. Boxes will be painted at the convenience of the selected artists this summer between June and August, hopefully before it gets too hot. Compensation will be \$500 per box.
3. Lexington Open Studios has invited the BAA to participate in their two-day event on 5/20-21. Karen Berman Mulligan reported that there will be an organizational meeting on 4/26. They are seeking a site manager to work indoors at Lexart during the event who will be responsible for unlocking the doors, putting tape on the floor to indicate exhibit spaces, coordinating setup, telling people where to park, and setting up the greeting table and 42 exhibiting tables. It is estimated to require about 18 hours of work over the course of the two days and pays \$25/hour.
4. In February there was a meeting at the Belmont Gallery of Art to discuss the future of the gallery. Rebecca Richards and Adine Storer have announced their retirement from co-directorship at the end of 2023. Rebecca is now working at the Munroe Center for the Arts in Lexington, and Adine moved to Maine during the pandemic. It is now up to the rest of us to carry on the mission of the BGA. Bert Halstead commented that Richard Hill says he will continue to hang shows, as he has done for several years. Many more people are needed to help out. Necessary jobs can be divided between people. It will take a village to keep the gallery we are so lucky to have in Belmont. If you are interested in becoming a director or otherwise helping out, contact Adine. The most important requirement is organizational skills.
5. Reminder: BAA's annual \$35 membership fee was due by the end of January.
6. Trinktisch, the Belmont Center restaurant associated with Craft Beer Cellar, is experimenting with hosting watercolor classes on some Sunday afternoons. Contact them for information.

Presentations

The remainder of the meeting was a show-and-tell by several of our member artists, inviting comment from others. We discussed the art of Nicole, Dari, Anne, Irene, Juliette, Karen, Lauren, and Sheila. Then Bert showed us the spectacular photographs that he and Louise took in Patagonia on their recent trip in December.

Recording Secretary: Jane Wentzell, 617- 489 - 0412
Edits and additional notes by Dari Paquette