



COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES, VETERANS, CULTURE,  
AND RECREATION

*Councilor Marianne LaBarge, Chair*

*Councilor Alisa F. Klein*

*Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra*

Meeting Minutes

Monday May 18, 2015

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street

Wallace J. Puchalski Municipal Building, Northampton, MA

1. Members present/absent: *Councilor LaBarge, Councilor Sciarra, and Councilor Klein were present.*
2. Meeting Called to Order: *At 4:00pm Councilor LaBarge called the meeting to order.*
3. Announcement of Audio/Video Recording of Meeting: *Councilor LaBarge announced that the meeting would be video and audio taped.*
4. Approval of Minutes of April 22, 2015: *Councilor LaBarge moved to amend the minutes to add items discussed at upcoming meetings and to correct the date of the meeting; Councilor Klein moved to accept the minutes as amended; Councilor Sciarra seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No*
5. Public Comment: *None*
6. *4:05 p.m. – Lisa Thompson, Associate Director and Treasurer, A.P.E. Ltd. Gallery*

*The Committee welcomed Lisa Thompson, Associate Director and Treasurer of A.P.E., Ltd. Gallery of Northampton. Ms. Thompson gave a brief history of the Gallery:*

*A.P.E. is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1977. Its primary objective is to provide programs space and support for the arts, in dance, theater, visual arts, spoken word, multimedia, and movement. There is an application process where artists are invited to submit a proposal for review by A.P.E. The organization serves both experienced and emerging artists.*

*From 1977 through 2006, A.P.E. occupied the top floor of Thornes Market. When the building was sold in 2006, the new owners converted the building space to offices and retail space leaving A.P.E., Ltd. Gallery without a home. In 2007 another building was purchased at 126 Main Street. In 2008, after extensive renovations, A.P.E. moved its office into this new location.*

*A.P.E. receives funding from box office receipts, sales of artwork, individual donors, corporate, local, state and national sources, as well as many in-kind contributions.*

*Projects that A.P.E. supports:*

- *Northampton Arts Trust: A.P.E., in conjunction with four other arts organizations (The Northampton Center for the Arts, New Century Theater, the Northampton Arts Council and Young@Heart Chorus) has created a community arts trust that would provide for the arts in the Northampton community.*

- *The ArtSalon: This event is for people interested in conversations about the arts in the Pioneer Valley. Presentations are by established and emerging artists; artists, creators, critics, collectors and supporters are encouraged to be a part of the event. ArtSalons are hosted by a diverse range of venues and do not happen on a regular basis.*
- *Contemporary Art @ historic Northampton: This initiative is collaboration between artists and the Northampton's Historic Museum. Ms. Thompson is an active member of this steering committee.*

7. 5:00 p.m. – Al Williams, Executive Director, NCTV

Northampton Community Television is a community media center and a public access TV station. The Center provides equipment to the community to support local media projects. In addition, they provide training to the community regarding all aspects of public media.

NCTV can found on [www.northamptontv.org](http://www.northamptontv.org), [www.paradisecitypress.org](http://www.paradisecitypress.org), as well as on cable television channels 12, 15, and 23.

- NCTV has initiated a citizen journalism program.
  - A free movie night event was started in 2013—Cinema Northampton and is open to the public. A 2015 movie schedule has already been announced.
  - The organization offers classes and workshops in the following:
    - Cinematography
    - DSLR cameras
    - Lighting
    - Audio
    - Editing and Motion Graphics
    - Electronic News Gathering
    - Aerial Videography
  - In 2014 NCTV won its 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive award for best website in community media in the US for organizations under a \$300,000 budget from the Alliance for Community Media.
  - NCTV has become a partner and media sponsor in Valley Gives, the Community Foundation project that helped raise over \$2 million for nonprofit organizations.
  - The 7 Day Film Sprint began in 2014 and will once again take place in 2015. Teams of 3-5 people participate from the community to produce over 90 minutes of original short films in only a week.
8. City Councilor Marianne LaBarge spoke about the agenda for the Month of June 2015.

9. **NEW BUSINESS** – *Reserved for topics that the Chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed-NONE*
10. **ADJOURN-@ 5:40 PM** Councilor Klein moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Sciarra seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

*Respectfully submitted by:*

*Pamela L. Powers*

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