

Wallkill River School
232 Ward Street
Montgomery, NY 12549

Minutes of the Annual Meeting on January 12, 2019

The Annual Meeting was called to order at 3:00pm by Chairperson, Penny Thelman who welcomed the Members and introduced the Board members present. She asked for all Members to be sure to sign in and for any proxies to be turned in.

Attendance: Present: Penny Thelman, Chairman; Chuck Tudor, President; Laurie Ellison, Treasurer; Maureen Crush, Jeanne Cook, Chrissy Pahucki, Mitchell Saler; Staff: Sarah Pierson, Executive Director, and Liam Vogel, Gallery Director
Absent: Shawn Dell Joyce, Janet Campbell.

Maureen Crush agreed to act as Secretary for the Meeting in Janet Campbell's absence. A quorum of members was present and confirmed.

Acceptance of Minutes: The acceptance of minutes from the 2018 Annual Meeting was tabled until the end of the Annual Meeting.

Highlights from the Annual Reports:

The Chairperson reviewed highlights of the Annual Reports and turned the meeting over to the President who introduced and welcomed Sarah Pierson, the Executive Director of the School.

Sarah spoke briefly thanking everyone for the warm welcome and indicating her interest in taking some time to understand how things worked in the past and what worked well, and looking forward to seeing what could be done better. Sarah also thanked Liam Vogel, Gallery Director, for the wonderful job he has been doing.

The President also noted that he had met with teachers twice this year and 16 teachers were participating with over 4,000 people attending classes. He thanked the teachers for this effort and acknowledged its importance to the reputation and prominence of the School in the community.

The Chairperson then gave an overview of the highlights of the financials as a Treasurer's report indicating the School was in the black for the year. Maureen Crush reported on the Capital Campaign and noted that with pledges to date, the Campaign was nearly at the half way mark for the first year.

Chrissy Pahucki reviewed the Plein Air Festival that had wrapped up in October noting over 30 artists were selected many who traveled to be at the show. She also noted that housing was found for any artists who requested it.

The Chairperson thanked all the Directors for their work over the past year and thanked the many members who also volunteered to make the programs a success.

Election:

The Chairperson then noted elections were to be held and appointment of the Inspectors of Election occurred. The candidates for Board positions were introduced and it was noted to the Members that brief bios were included in their materials. The three candidates were Janet Campbell, Jeanne Cook and Mitchell Saler.

The Chairperson then asked if there were any nominations from the floor and there were none. Jeanne Cook and Mitchell Saler spoke briefly about their interest in the School and their background. In Janet Campbell's absence, the Chairperson noted Janet had been a board member, was a Member of the School and a teacher as well.

The Chairperson called for any remaining proxies and for ballots to be cast thereafter and noted that while the ballots were counted, Appreciation Certificates would be awarded.

Appreciation Certificates and Awards:

The following Awards were then presented by the Chairperson:

WRS 2018 Board of Director's Award – Susan Wilson

WRS 2018 Chairman's Award – Vaune Sherin

WRS Gallery Director's Award – Vicki O'Neal

The Chairperson reminded the Members that the Member's Choice Awards for Favorite Artist and Favorite Teacher would be announced at the reception after the meeting.

Certificates of thanks were also given to many Members who had been helpful and made contributions to the success of the WRS – Lisa O'Gorman, Rick Parenti, Bernice Fury, Vaune & Mike Sherin.

President Chuck Tudor then presented a Special Recognition Award to Liam Vogel, Gallery Director, for his tremendous efforts on behalf of the WRS over the prior year.

Election Continued: The inspectors of election reported on the ballots to the Chairperson who announced that 29 ballots had been cast in favor of the three candidates who were unanimously elected for another term as directors – Janet Campbell, Jeanne Cook and Mitchell Saler.

Old Business:

The Chairperson then asked if there was any old business from the Members. There was a brief discussion of Capital Campaign, the drop off dates for the group exhibit and the status of the website development.

The Chairperson then asked if the Members had had an opportunity to review the Minutes of the prior Annual Meeting and called for a motion to accept. Upon motion

made and seconded, the Annual Meeting Minutes of 2018 were approved without change.

New Business:

The Chairperson made a call for volunteers and for Members to serve on committees. There were also brochures available and the Chairperson asked Members to please take and distribute them in the community – libraries, Town Hall, stores.

The Chairperson thanked the Members for attending and for their continued support of the WRS.

The Chairperson then reminded Members to vote for the Member's Choice Awards and invited Members to the reception.

On motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

Subsequently, the Member Choice Awards for Favorite Artist were announced by the Chairperson as follows:

Jeanie Beers 3rd Place
Nancy Reed Jones 2nd Place
Gerri Comicz 1st Place

The Favorite Teacher Award was announced as having been won by Lana Privitera.