



October 28, 2017

To the Members of the Wickford Art Association:

**Wickford Art
Association**
36 Beach Street
Wickford, RI
02852
401.294.6840
wickfordart.org

**Board of
Directors**

Officers

Lorraine Hynes
President

Gerry Grabowski
Vice President

Kevin DeAngelis
Treasurer

Laurie Rackley-
Joseph
Secretary

Directors

Gary Carlson

Victoria Corey

Joan Hertel

Delores Jeffries

Sandra King

Eileen McCarney
Muldoon

The future is bright and good things are happening at the Wickford Art Association (WAA). We encourage you to stop in and visit our many exhibits and welcome you to participate in our classes. The membership is strong and growing, the classes and lessons are healthy and profitable, the organization is financially sound, and the Board of Directors is comprised of talented professionals.

As you may recall, last year WAA explored options to occupy the Town Hall Annex building in exchange for the WAA Gallery located on Beach Street as a solution for not only a sorely needed larger venue for the organization's own programs and activities, but also as a way to have a positive impact on the vitality of a struggling downtown Wickford by preserving an important historic building in the heart of the Village. The Wickford Art Association's intent was to utilize the building for events, exhibits and shows, and for offering educational opportunities such as classes and presentations for youth and adults, thereby enhancing revenues for Wickford merchants, and providing a center of cultural edification showcasing the arts, for townspeople and visitors of all socio-economic levels.

It has been an exhausting experience and unfortunately WAA was not able to reach a mutually agreeable exchange with the Town of North Kingstown. I strongly recommend that the public view the September 11, 2017 Town Council meeting to best understand the overly-evident disagreement amongst the members of the Council with respect to the use of the Annex. Prior to September 2017, the Town Council and Town Manager had been assuring us that the Town was committed to exclusively exploring a partnership with WAA. However, an apparent rift developed amongst the Council, and it was ultimately decided that the Town would issue a Request for Proposals for use of the Annex from third-parties. This Request for Proposals sought commitments, requirements and sacrifices that were never discussed during our previous negotiations with the Town. Accordingly, WAA has no choice but to withdraw from negotiations, and forego submission of any formal proposal. Despite the WAA's tireless efforts to seek and secure as much grant funding as possible, the tremendous financial commitment recently requested by the Town, uncertainty of the Town's willingness and/or ability to partner with the WAA in pursuit of further grants, and apparent disinterest of the Town in purchasing or leasing the WAA's current property, collectively equate to a financial burden the WAA would never be able to bear.

The Board of Directors' for Wickford Art Association would like to thank our members, the many local committees, sub-committees and organizations for their supporting letters and guidance throughout this process. We thank you for continually attending meetings, voicing your opinion and participating in the many public hearings. WAA remains committed to supporting our local artists, promoting the arts, and fostering a positive relationship with the community.

Thank you

Lorraine A. Hynes, President
Board of Directors for the Wickford Art Association

Our Mission Statement

The purpose of the Association shall be to educate, encourage and inspire its membership, the local arts community and the general public, and to promote fine arts in the community.