

North Shore Arts Association Board Annual Meeting Minutes for August 17, 2025

Location: 11 Pirates Lane, Gloucester and through Zoom

Submitted by Karen Fitzgerald

**Meeting called to order Sunday August 17, 2025 at 4:00pm by
President Mary Rose Kennedy.**

Members in attendance: 42, quorum met

Board members in attendance: Mary Rose O'Connell, Daniel Lyman, Susan Ellis, Steve Howard, Ed Dove, Michele O'Neil, Marion Rayner, Jeff Fioravanti, Steven Simpson, Robert Frascella, Sarah Milton, Steve Kennedy, Steve Wetzel, Karen Fitzgerald

Board Members not present:

George Darcy

Mary Rose O'Connell, President, welcomed members and thanked them for their support and attendance. She gave an update on the current progress and growth the NSAA has engaged in this current 2025. Points reviewed were:

- New members to the board: Daniel Lyman as vice President, George Darcy as Treasurer, Ed Dove as Financial Advisor
- Staffing: we now have 3 full time employees and Sarah was promoted to Executive Director
- Improvements: to the parking lot, Street Repair on Pirates Lane, a new porch, updated alarm and phone systems, computer upgrades
- Renewal and review of our insurance policies.
- Annual Appeal has raised \$17,000 (this is our top priority-to secure a grant and raise additional funds to replace the roof.)

Mary Rose then announced the Jurors for the next season to be voted on by the membership and explained the ballot election process. The membership cast ballots were counted as well as online ballots sent prior and the results were as follows:

2026 Elected Executive Board Members

Mary Rose O'Connell, President
Daniel Lyman, Vice President
George Darcy, Treasurer
Karen Fitzgerald, Secretary

2026 Elected Trustees

Hilary Baldwin, Trustee
Michael Dorsey, Trustee
Margaret Emerson, Trustee
Peter Tierney, Trustee

2026 Exhibition Jury *for 2026 (1 year term)*

Tamara Amoroso
George Darcy
Dina Gomery
Alonzo Clarke
Peter Tierney
Grace Vasta
Christine Whalen-Waller
Marny Williams
Ellen Hurley
Larry Grob
Gayle Macklem
Paul Noel
Eileen Patten Oliver
Pamela Stratton

Alternates:

John Catizone
Patricia O'Hare Williams
Maureen Desisto
Daniel Lyman
Steven Simpson
Maureen Terrill

2026 New Member Jury

for 2026 (1 year term)

Marion Hall

John Caggiano

Cindy Crimmin

Anne Demeter

Tom Gill

Lynda Goldberg

Charlotte Roberts

Alternates:

Orentas Balaisis

Theresa Gambardella

Joe Smith

Ann Emerson

Daniel Murphy

The following reports were also presented:

Executive Director Sarah Milton spoke about the following events:

Community Outreach:

- Collaborations with The Sargent House Museum, Art Haven and Cape Ann Plein Air
- The opportunity for members to participate in plein air events, exhibit with Bank Gloucester and Beauport Hotel
- Cape Ann Artisan will enhance our annual Holiday Pop-Up this November
- The Belleruche and the John Singer Sargent Collection brought in many new viewers. We will try to have more shows with connections to established reknown artists.

Volunteers:

Sarah reached out to volunteers thanking them for their amazing support this year assisting with artists demos, inventorying NSAA's permanent collection, receptions, and exhibition receiving.

(The following data is a recap of Sarah Milton's report attached)

NSAA 2024 Data

There were 217 sold artworks for gross art sales of \$84,503.95

Visitor Count total was 7,456 individuals (averaging 33 per day)

NSAA 2025 Data to date

Visitor count as of Aug. 8, 2025 is 3,841 visitors (267 more than last year at this time despite being closed on Mondays)

“Bellerroche and John Singer Sargent Connection saw 1,341 visitors (360 more than last year within the same time frame).

Combined total Donations for 2024: \$89,981.17

- Appeal/Donation/Box/General Donations: \$41,938.20
- Pave Pirates Lane Donations: \$22,007
- Award Donations: \$16,035.97
- Emile Gruppe painting donation valued at \$10,000

Combined donations for 2025 to date total 19,329.97

Including:

- Barbara Donnelly Memorial Award \$1945. (Raised of \$3000 matching award from Donnelly family)
- 2025 Awards given by NSAA: \$1700 (includes NSAA's popular prizes/Awards honoring deceased artist members and BOT ExNew England Award.

****2025 NSAA's High School Scholarship of \$1000 went to a Rockport High School Student.**

This year's Synergy has sold out! 35 artist members will exhibit in November alongside the Holiday Market.

The Secretary's Report:

Susan Ellis presented the minutes NSAA 2024 Meeting minutes for approval. They were approved. (Written by Sarah Milton, minutes attached)

Treasurer/Finance Reports:

Ed Dove reported that the financial position of the NSAA remains strong. NSAA Endowment Trust is also attached.

House and IT Report:

Steve Howard reviewed several items and systems that were performed to upgrade the property and updated technology for the NSAA. (Reports attached)

Arts and Exhibitions Committee:

Susan Ellis reviewed her report on the calendar of events for 2024- and 2025-years' exhibitions. Because of the lag in sales for 2025, significant changes were made to increase revenue. There were 17 new artists members accepted of the 44 that applied. The Synergy Show also was expanded to have more artist participants. (Report attached)

Awards Committee:

Mary Rose O'Connell reported on the distribution of 76 awards this 2025 season. (Report is attached)

Survey result on Rental Policy for Outside Groups:

Mary Rose O'Connell reviewed the reported results of the survey with 80% of the voting members in favor of allowing the Staff and Exhibitions Committee the ability to make decisions whether to bring an event to the trustees for approval. The board recommended a proposal for a more specific language change to the bylaws and the language change was presented to the membership. The membership approved the language change. (Survey results attached)

New Business:

Mary Rose O'Connell brought the membership up to date on conversations with individuals concerning the erosion of a section of the sea wall encroaching on the NSAA parking lot. Hopefully this will be resolved soon.

The Meeting was adjourned approximately 7:00 pm