

Amherst Cultural Council  
Meeting Minutes

October 14, 5:30 p.m.

Via Zoom 5:30 – 7:20 pm and recorded

Matt Holloway, Julianne Applegate, Jenny Lind, Arthur Pero, Rachel Wang,  
Leah Neuburger, Joy Jarne, Robin Thompson

Meeting came to order at 5:38 pm with audio and video check, Matt read our intro script about zoom meetings

1. Joy introduced herself and gave the council a short history of her interest in the arts. The council also introduced themselves to her as well. Christie isn't able to attend tonight.
2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of September 9, 2021 – minutes approved by roll-call vote
3. Shapeshifter request – motion approved by roll-call vote to give the project a deadline to February 15, 2022 and to change the name of the project. Jenny will follow-up with Elizabeth.
4. Ezzell Florianina request – one year extension of the project that he would like to reapply for additional funds next year. We can't promise him that he will be granted additional funds for next year. Motion approved by roll-call vote to extend deadline for one year.
5. Music on Main Request – Would like to postpone project to after May 15, 2022. Motion approved by roll-call vote to extend deadline.
6. Isabella Dell'olio Request – would like to postpone project because of health problems. Motion approved by roll-call vote to extend deadline until February 15, 2022.
7. Dates for evaluating grants: Nov 10 (6:30), Nov 16 (4:30) Nov 17 (6:30) Dec 1 (6:30)
8. Review and revise scoring metrics: Julianne will collate all of our scores and emails back out average scores prior to the meetings. The scores are a good starting place for discussion and identifies red flags and the need for further questions or discussion. Cyndi shared Rachel's scoring spread sheet. There are some changes of criteria from last year. Grey column will be prepopulated and the peach column are the scoring criteria. New column addresses grants meeting public to greater Amherst community. Who are new applicants and repeat applicants? How do we keep it merit based and not repeat systems and potentially miss new interesting projects. We won't track this but keep it as a remark and keep it in mind with discussing the grants. The scoring sheet captures what we need to consider and Rachel will follow up with Julianne. Rachel also shared some additional information that is interesting but needs further data to be able to use. Northampton cancelled their annual art show because the content of an artwork. Matt hopes this informs our antiracist practice going into the grant season. Our individual actions to support diversity, equity, and inclusion in our own community speaks to our decision making as a council. The council will remain supportive of the new town working group to support diversity, equity and inclusion. Matt will reach out to Town Manager's office to start this dialogue.

9. Public grants and listening sessions overview. We passed along our notes from our listening sessions to the town. There will be more listening sessions hosted by the town. It was a good opportunity to connect with the town offices.
10. Michael Bobbit session overview: Julianne represented the ACC and met the new leader of the MCC who toured and visited the area and met with many arts organization and local governments in the area. All of these organizations in the same room together was important to show how much we offer of the arts and how Michael can support arts organizations in the area. Many of those organization have received grants from the ACC.
11. PechaKucha report: on hold for now
12. Showcase: Leah has an 11 minute video of Amherst Ballet to share. She will share it and we cannot deliberate on it outside of meetings. Leah's and Cole are creating segments to make into a larger video. They should take time to make it great and not try to rush production. They have had a lot of really nice personal connections with artists during COVID.
13. No new business
14. Adjourned at 7:20 pm