

Amherst Cultural Council
APPROVED Minutes
Thursday, November 13, 2012
Trustees Room, Jones Library

The meeting was called to order by: Ellen Kosmer, Co-Chair at 4:15 pm.

Attendance

Present: Ellen Kosmer, Co-Chair, Honoré David, Co-chair, Ruth Rootberg, Secretary, Jim Scott, Treasurer, Gretchen Fox, Arnold Friedmann, Sandra Mullin, Rachel Mustin, Joan Temkin, & Sondra Radosh, liaison.

Minutes:

The minutes of November 8 were approved.

Calendar of meetings:

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 19 from 3-5pm. Ruth and Rachel will be late. Sandra will take minutes until Ruth arrives. The Amherst Room is booked; if Sondra can find a room with better lighting, she will book it. An alternative will be to bring another lamp into the room.

The next day, Tuesday, November 20 will be changed from to originally scheduled 4:45 start time and earlier **4pm** and then continue to 6pm. The place in the Jones Library will be announced.

The additional date we have chosen through a Doodle poll is December 11 from 3-5. Council member are requested to be available to stay later as necessary so we can complete our business. The newly remodeled Woodbury Room, formerly known as the "Large Meeting Room," is booked.

Storage:

Jim reports the height of storage space for our archived files is 28 inches maximum which is sufficient for a normal two-drawer file cabinet. There is space to put two cabinets side by side. Jim will ask whether there are empty cabinets of those dimensions available.

Voting decisions (Provisional):

FY2013-15 Gallery A3 requests \$1,200 for Cross Pollinate. We have very few arts galleries and feel it is important to support them.

Decision: \$500.

FY2013-16 Rosa Maria Calderon requests \$500 for World Celebration. We like it; it's cooperative, and there are volunteers. This is a first-time application.

Decision: \$150 and revisit to raise.

FY2013-17 The Performance Project requests \$1,500 for First Generation Performance in Amherst.

Decision: \$200.

FY2013-18 ETTA International and the Rainbow Players requests \$1,350 for Planting Seeds of Empower-Improv Across the Valley. This is a great program, but **we obviously can't fund it completely**. This is a long-standing group that has a record for fund-raising.

Decision: \$300.

FY2013-19 TEDxShelburneFalls requests \$400 for a conference.

The project is interesting, but is this what we want to fund? How will it benefit Amherst population?

Decision: Denied : Priority a) Priority is given to Amherst artist(s)/cultural groups.

See note at end of minutes.

FY2013-20 Hampshire Shakespeare Company requests \$1,200 for Shakespeare Under the Stars 2012.

Decision: \$600

FY2013-21 Eric Carle requests \$5,000 for the Carle's Annual Education Night.

Discussion ensued. The event is not listed on their website; did the program occur? The application is unsigned and undated.

Decision: Tabled. Honoré will investigate.

FY2013-22 Springfield Symphony Youth Orchestra requests \$500 for a performance. There was discussion that although many Amherst youth are involved in this group, they will not be performing in Amherst.

Decision: \$250.

FY2013-23 Eventide Singers request \$100 for hospice choir.

Decision: \$75.

FY2013-24 Quabbin Valley Pro Musica requests \$250 for a concert.

Decision: \$75.

FY2013-25 Thomas Roberts-Wierzbowski requests \$400 for Life in a Wheelchair, an in-school program for Fort River Elementary School. Discussion ensued.
Decision: \$200.

FY2013-26 Da Camera Singers request \$500 for “Home Works: Valley Poems, Valley Music.
Decision: \$300.

FY2013-27 Moonlight and Morning Star requests \$300 for a celebration of Song: Concert for Seniors. Although there is no supporting letter from Nancy Pagano, the application states she is in complete support. We have supported them in the past, perhaps in FY2011.
Decision: \$125.

FY2013-28 Piti Theatre Company requests \$500 for To Bee or Not to Bee.
Decision: \$150.

FY2013-29 Amherst Leisure Services Community Theater requests \$500. The application form was not filled out properly; it was hard to find information. We are familiar with what they do and wish to keep supporting them.
Decision: \$350.

FY2013-30 Hampshire Choral Society requests \$500 for the 60th Anniversary All Beethoven Concert.
Decision: \$250 and revisit.

FY2013-31 Whole Children requests \$2,000 for Whole Children’s Peanuts Extravaganza. New application. Discussion revolved around whether this was a humanities or humanitarian project.
Decision: \$100.

FY2013-32 Old Deerfield Productions requests \$500 for Belly Incantation.
Decision: \$100.

FY2013-33 Blue Hill Adventure & Quarry Museum requests \$300 for a cross section of the “geology” of Massachusetts from Boston Harbor to Berkshires.
Decision: denied - 9) Venues must be confirmed when submitting an application. Please include a letter from the venue as confirmation.

Note: The denial letter is to include encouragement to submit again, making sure to secure the venue and date, and to please do a spell check before submitting.

FY2013-34 Amherst Ballet requests \$4,600 for Performances in May. There is not enough information in the application, but as we have supported them well in the past, we want the new artistic director a chance to develop the information.

Decision: Tabled. Joan will contact them to elicit more information.

FY2013-35 Dixieland Stomp requests \$490 to play at the First Congregational Church.

Decision: \$100.

FY2013-36 Amherst Area Publications requests \$500 for a publishing fair. This is a new idea from a group we have funded before (Harvesting History). Discussion ensued. **There are many writers in Amherst. It's an original approach.**

Decision: \$100.

FY2013-37 Music on Main requests \$200 for Celtic Fire. There was no budget included.

Decision: Tabled. Arnold will contact them.

FY2013-38 Steve Damon requests \$600 for Music for seniors.

Decision: \$100.

FY2013-39 Arena Civic Theatre requests \$500 for Jesus Christ Superstar.

Decision: \$150.

As the 6:15 closing approached, we suspended looking at grants until the next meeting and reviewed decisions to ensure accuracy.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:05 pm.

Notes:

Letters to Applicants Denied funding:

If we do not grant funding, the Massachusetts Cultural Council advises us to inform the applicant as soon as possible. They have a right to ask for reconsideration. If we were to reconsider and decide to grant funding, we would want time to look at how our whole budget and decision-making would be affected. Ellen and Honoré will take care of all denial letters as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Rootberg, Secretary
Amherst Cultural Council