

Amherst Public Art Commission Meeting – September 24, 2014

First floor meeting room, Town Hall

Present: Eric Broudy, Bonnie Isman, Rene Theberge, Rosario Gaddier, Daniel Grant, Rachel Hankinson, Kamil Peters

Chairman Rene Theberge called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM. Rene welcomed Kamil as a potential new member of the Commission.

1. The minutes of the meeting on August 20, 2014 were approved as submitted.
2. Chair's Report. Rene and Bonnie attended the Amherst Cultural Council meeting on Sept. 18. Rene presented the idea of 'temporary public art' which ACC said they would support. They stressed that any grant would only be for 40% of the cost of the project. Rene also asked about an extension on the current grant for mapping public art. They referred us to a form on the Mass. Cultural Council website. The deadline is October 15, if we are unable to expend the money for design and printing costs soon.

Rene and Bonnie also attended the Historical Commission meeting on Sept. 23 to discuss the Amherst History Mural on the Carriage Shops. The developers have come up with a new concept for re-painting the mural on a wall of the proposed building. New building and site plans will be presented to the Planning Board on October 1. Artist David Fichter prefers to keep the original wall and mural, but he is willing to work with the developers to re-create one. Copies were distributed of the easement agreement which protects the Town's right to the mural. This is an important way to legally protect new public art works. The developers told Rene that they may have sites for other public art installations. Bob Ritchie offered to talk with the Commission about the Visual Artists Rights Act. The artists at the meeting agreed that APAC could use our own images of the mural for the mapping project, since it is non-commercial promotion of public art. The Historical Commission urged APAC to create online access to information about the people in the mural.

3. Treasury. Rachel reported \$50.09 in APAC's account. Betzi Sylvan, current Town Hall artist, has sold 5 pieces in her exhibit which will generate some commission income for APAC. We discussed ways to cover the costs of membership in the Art Walk group. Eric moved, and Rachel seconded that APAC charge participating artists an exhibition fee of \$20 starting in July, 2015, to pay for Art Walk membership and advertising. Motion passed (five in favor, and one opposed). In general, everyone agreed it would be best not to charge a fee, if our funding situation improves.

4. Public Art Report. Eric announced the date of the Public Art for Amherst Meeting: October 23 from 10 am – noon at Town Hall. Town Manager John Musante approved the letter of invitation and the list of participants. The letter will be sent by email. Eric and Rene will participate for APAC.

5. Mapping project. Bonnie confirmed that the Tiffany glass windows at the Unitarian Universalist Society will be lighted at night for public viewing, and regular hours for public viewing inside will be announced soon. We agreed to include the windows in the mapping project. Daniel contacted the UMass Communications Office regarding photos of public art on campus and was referred to a staff photographer. Rene will send out an updated inventory list indicating what photos are still needed.

6. Exhibit Schedule. Rene asked for help with setting the exhibit schedule for 2015. Rachel pointed out that the lighting needs improvement, and a new hanging system should be considered. Outdoor lighting is needed for Art Walk opening nights. A second table would be useful. Rene and Rachel will speak with the custodial staff. Bonnie will check on Art Walk signs at the Amherst Chamber office.

7. Website Development. No updates have been made. This will be a major topic for the next meeting.

8. Public Art discussion. No discussion.

9. Other Business. No new grant application will be submitted to ACC this year. We will request an extension of the current grant. Bonnie will follow up.

The next meeting will be on Monday, October 20 at Noon at Town Hall.

Adjourned: 1:25 PM

Submitted by Bonnie Isman