

**Amherst Public Art Commission Meeting** – April 20, 2017 – Town Hall

Present: Eric Broudy, Ellen Keiter, Bonnie Isman, Rene Theberge, Amy Crawley, Dan Grant, Emma Ayers

Rene Theberge started the meeting at 12:05 pm.

1. Meeting minutes for March were approved.

2. Emma and Amy reported on their plans to convene a gathering of local artists. Emma got immediate positive response to a posting on Facebook about the need for such an event. Next, they will work on choosing the venue, creation of an email list, and the concept of an arts council. Rene and Eric reported that the Cultural District is also interested in bringing together artists/arts organizations that make up the District. Rene is on the event committee. We agreed it would be best to all work together. Emma will meet with Cultural District Arts Coordinator Peter McQuillen to coordinate planning. Other news: Thanks to a private donation, Rene has ordered a replacement plaque for 'The Portal' sculpture. When asked about the status of the Town's new splash park, Rene said he will contact Dave Ziomek for an update.

3. Treasurer. Dan reported a balance of \$708.28 in the commission's account.

4. Public Art Site Condition Report. Ellen estimated \$10,000 to repair and re-galvanize the Poetic Dialogue sculptures, based on work done at the Carle Museum. Emma will contact a local metal shop for a second estimate. We discussed the possibility of the Town's insurance covering part of the cost. There's a \$5,000 deductible. Bonnie will correct the spelling of the artist's name to Verzi, not Versi, in the Amherst Art Map. Ellen noted that the Poetry Windows also needs repairs.

5. Amherst Fire Station. Emma continues to investigate possibilities. She met with Shea Theater organizers and plans to meet with State Rep. Solomon Goldstein-Rose. The Mass. Cultural Facilities grant program may be a source of funds for this project.

6. Gallery. Rene met with Town Manager Bockelman about the need for new lighting. Bockelman said he will take care of it and will follow up with DPW head Guilford Mooring and the electricians. The new hanging system was received. The old system will be removed and the new one installed before the May exhibiting artists set up their show.

7. Social media. Staff changes in the IT Department have slowed down updates to our webpages. There was a brief discussion of the need to improve Town website exposure on the arts in Amherst.

8. Mapping project. After reviewing quotes for printing the updated brochure, we agreed to pay \$1,056. for 5,000 copies. Susan LaPointe of TurningLeaf Design provided quotes from two firms in Holyoke. Bonnie passed around copies illustrating the new colors being considered. Rene and Bonnie will meet with Susan to see the printed proofs before making the final choice. Bonnie's term on the commission is up in June, so we will need someone to distribute the brochures and to store the inventory. Dan will contact UMass about distributing the Amherst Art brochures to incoming students and their families.

9. UMass Temporary Art Loan Program. The Finance Department staff told Rene that the Town's insurance would not cover any temporary installation of public art by UMass on town property. Contracts for a temporary loan must include this fact.

10. Other: Percent for Art. Eric went to a Town Meeting precinct meeting to explain the % for Art bylaw proposal. He didn't get many questions, and he plans to attend the rest of the precinct meetings as well. The Finance Committee did not support the proposed bylaw, but the Select Board did. Rene is writing the commission's Annual Report for 2015-2016 and will circulate a draft for comment. Amy attended a Town Roadshow meeting where they discussed a redesign of the north portion of the Town Common. Possible site for public art?

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.  
Submitted by Bonnie Isman

Next meetings: May 18, and June 21-- noon.