



To: Town Council
Town Clerk

Fr: Paul Bockelman
Town Manager

Dt: September 18, 2019 (revised September 19, 2019)

Re: Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee Appointments

Appointments

With this memo, I refer to the Town Council and simultaneously file with the Town Clerk, the following names of people I desire to appoint as members of the Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee in accordance with Section 2.11(b) of the Amherst Home Rule Charter. Terms are effective immediately unless otherwise noted.

Three-year term (3):

(expires June 30, 2022) Gail Lansky, 39 Summerfield Road (reappointment)

Two-year term (2):

(expires June 30, 2021) Stephanie Leombruno, 74 Rolling Green Drive

Paul Goulston, Nathaniel Larson, and Keith Nesbitt will continue as members with terms expiring June 30, 2020. Andrew Grant-Thomas will continue as a member with a term expiring June 30, 2021. After the two appointments from this memo, there will be one vacancy to fill.

Profiles

- **Gail Lansky**: Gail has had extensive involvement in the Amherst community with experience at the Lander-Grinspoon Academy, Amherst Cinema, Hillel at the University of Massachusetts, the Yiddish Book Center, and the Survival Center. Gail was originally appointed on October 17, 2016.
- **Stephanie Leombruno**: Stephanie has extensive experience as a reporter and correspondent and working in and volunteering for numerous nonprofit organizations. She has decided to make Amherst her home and is eager to contribute to the governing of her community. She holds two Masters Degrees (politics and environmental science and policy) and is currently in law school focusing on human rights especially as it relates to environmental justice and climate change.

Summary of Process

I assembled a team to conduct interviews. The interview team was comprised of Community Development Block Grant Committee chair Gail Lansky, staff liaison Nate Malloy, Residents' Advisory Committee member Jim Pistrang, and Paul Bockelman, Town Manager.

The interview team interviewed all candidates. All team members asked questions and contributed to the discussion during the interview. At the conclusion of the interview, we agreed that the appointment and reappointment listed above would best serve the needs of the Committee.

Background Information

Below is the relevant section of the Charter for your review. Notice was posted on the Town Bulletin Board on August 13, 2019 in accordance with Section 9.12(e) of the Town Charter.

Section 2.11(b) of the Charter states:

Members of Multiple-Member Bodies: The Town Manager shall refer to the Town Council and simultaneously file with the Town Clerk, the name of each person the Town Manager desires to appoint as a member of a multiple-member body. Appointment of a member of a multiple-member body made by the Town Manager shall become effective on the 30th day after the date on which notice of the proposed appointment was filed with the Town Clerk unless approved or rejected by a majority of the full Town Council within the 30 days.

The original item was published from 8/13/2019 9:06:54 AM to 9/9/2019 2:26:50 PM.

In the News

amherstma.gov - News & Announcements

Posted on: August 13, 2019

[ARCHIVED] Town Manager Seeks Members for Boards & Committees

The Town Manager is seeking volunteers to serve on numerous Town Boards. Boards and Committees that have or may have vacancies include the **Cultural Council, Agricultural Commission, Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee, Community Preservation Act Committee, LSSE Commission, Munson Memorial Building Trustees, Board of Registrars, and the Transportation Advisory Committee.**

Here is a little about each of these committees.

- [Cultural Council](#): The Cultural Council allocates state Arts Lottery funds and works to support and nurture arts activities in the community by seeking private or other public funds and initiatives.
- [Agricultural Commission](#): The Agricultural Commission supports commercial agriculture and other farming activities in the Town by promoting agricultural-based economic opportunities; acting as mediators, advocates, educators, and/or negotiators on farming issues; working for the preservation of agricultural lands; pursuing all initiatives appropriate to creating a sustainable agricultural community; and reviewing and advising on development proposed in farmland areas, as may be permitted under zoning and other development regulations.
- [Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\) Advisory Committee](#): The CDBG Committee makes recommendations to the Town Manager regarding the Town's CDBG program that includes both social service and non-social service community development activities. CDBG funds are awarded to projects, programs, and services that improve the lives of Amherst's low- and moderate-income residents and/or increase the accessibility for individuals with disabilities.
- [Community Preservation Act \(CPA\) Committee](#): The CPA Committee studies the needs and resources of the Town regarding community preservation; makes recommendations to the Town Council annually for the acquisition, creation and preservation of open space, for the acquisition and preservation of historic resources, for the acquisition, creation and preservation of land for recreational use, for the creation, preservation and support of community housing and for rehabilitation or restoration of such open space, historic resources, land for recreational use and community housing that is acquired or created as provided in the Community Preservation Act.
- [Munson Memorial Building Trustees](#): The Munson Memorial Building Trustees oversee the general use of the Munson Memorial Library building and act as the community

representative for the town with respect to the building. The Trustees plant and tend the garden and take care of the shrubbery.

- **LSSE Commission:** The LSSE Commission – which is Amherst’s version of a recreation department - assists the LSSE Department by advising on recreational facilities and a variety of leisure and recreational programs and supplemental education classes. The Commission develops policies, rules and regulations governing the operation of the facilities and the delivery of LSSE programs. The Commission also advises on public playgrounds, parks, and athletic facilities.
- **Board of Registrars:** Massachusetts General Laws requires that every city and town have a Board of Registrars consisting of the city or town clerk and 3 other persons. The Board provides general oversight of Town elections.
- **Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC):** TAC is advisory committee to the Town Manager and the Select Board on all transportation matters. The TAC seeks address all transportation matters in a comprehensive and holistic manner. The TAC provides advice on current and proposed transportation regulations, policies, initiatives, and improvement projects.

The Town Manager seeks residents who have relevant expertise or experience. *The Town Manager is especially seeking individuals of diverse backgrounds to serve on all boards, committees, and commissions.* If you are interested in volunteering to serve, **please fill out a Community Activity Form at: www.amherstma.gov/caf**

If you have questions, reach out to our Community Participation Officers at getinvolved@amherstma.gov or visit their page, www.amherstma.gov/getinvolved

Posted on August 13, 2019, Amherst Home Rule Charter Section 9.12 (e) Uniform Procedures Applicable to Multiple Member Bodies: Vacancies

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Appointing Authority: Select Board

Type: Standing Committee

Special Municipal Employee Status: no

Created by Town bylaw, Town Meeting action, etc.: no

Number of Voting Members: 7 (seven)

Term of Appointment: 3 years

Approved: October 18, 2011 Select Board meeting

Composition:

The CBDG Advisory Committee will consist of seven (7) members representing a diversity of experience and a range of professional expertise including but not limited to housing, human and social services, accessibility, and familiarity with issues affecting those with low- and moderate-income. Members may be active on other boards and committees; but membership is not to exceed one individual per other board or committee.

Charge Summary:

The CBDG Advisory Committee will be responsible for making recommendations to the Town Manager regarding the Town's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program that includes both social service and non-social service community development activities. By regulation, CDBG funds must be awarded primarily to projects, programs, and services that improve the lives of Amherst's low- and moderate-income residents, or increase accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

The CBDG Advisory Committee will:

1. Gather input from Amherst residents through a public process that may include hosting community events and public meetings to identify specific CDBG eligible activities.
2. Gather input from other boards and committees and Town departments regarding specific CDBG eligible activities.
3. Schedule and hold public hearings as required.
4. Collaborate with the Planning Board or a subcommittee thereof to develop the Community Development Strategy (CDS). The Planning Board shall hold the public hearing for the CDS.
5. Review and evaluate funding requests from other boards and committees, Town departments, local social service agencies, residents, and others interested in receiving CDBG project funding from the Town of Amherst.
6. Make recommendations to the Town Manager regarding CDBG projects to be included in the Town's CDBG application. The Town Manager, who has full authority to grant contracts under the Amherst Town Government Act, will review those recommendations at a regular Select Board meeting for feedback prior to filing the CDBG application.
7. Prepare an annual report.
8. Inform Amherst residents of CDBG activities via various means such as the Town's website, etc.

