



TOWN OF
AMHERST
MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Town Manager
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To: Town Council
Town Clerk

Fr: Paul Bockelman
Town Manager

Dt: January 22, 2020

Re: Cultural Council 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 Cultural Council in accordance with Section 2.11(b) of the Amherst Home Rule Charter. Terms are effective immediately unless otherwise noted.

Three-year term (1):
(expires June 30, 2022) Arthur Pero, 51 Spaulding Street

Two-year term (1):
(expires June 30, 2021) Nicolas Graber-Mitchell, 129 South Pleasant Street

One-year term (1):
(expires June 30, 2020) Rachel Wang, 993 East Pleasant Street

Ms. Terry Rooney, who had been appointed previously, had to decline the appointment due to personal reasons.

Profiles

Arthur Pero: Mr. Pero has worked for over twenty years as a musician and has experience in visual arts most notably with an internship at the MacDowell artist colony. He has a deeply held belief that access and opportunities to pursue artistic endeavors should be extended to talented individuals, regardless of their financial situation.

Nicolas Graber-Mitchell: Mr. Graber-Mitchell is a student at Amherst College and has expressed interest in being involved in Town government. He brings energy and enthusiasm to the mission of the Cultural Council and was eager to participate in developing ways to engage students in Town cultural activities.

Rachel Wang: Ms. Wang has worked extensively in intercultural communications and education with a career that has spanned visual arts management, museum education, journalism, advertising, public relations business consulting, and community volunteering. As a first-generation immigrant, she wants to bring the experience of being a foreigner not speaking English and as a mother with children in the School district. She intends to promote diversity both in terms of contributors and participants.

Summary of Process

I assembled a team to conduct interviews. The interview team was comprised of Cultural Council chair Georgia Barnhill, staff support Cynthia Harbeson, Residents Advisory Committee member Jim Pistrang, and Paul Bockelman, Town Manager.

The interview team interviewed all new candidates. All team members asked questions and contributed to the discussion during the interview. At the conclusion of the interview, we agreed that the appointments 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 September 19, 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.

TOWN OF AMHERST

COMMITTEE CHARGE

Name: **AMHERST CULTURAL COUNCIL**

Appointing authority: SB

Type: Committee

Town bylaw: no

Number of voting members: 9

Member appointment: 3 yrs.

Voting members to include (where possible): Those who have demonstrated scholarship or creativity in, or distinguished service to, the arts and humanities, and who shall be broadly representative of all fields of the performing arts, the fine arts, and the humanities. Some experience in handling funds desirable. Members should collectively have knowledge of education, economic development, and tourism.

The Amherst Cultural Council follows all terms and conditions established by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The council allocates state Arts Lottery funds, but it is directed to support and nurture arts activities in the community by seeking private or other public funds and initiatives. The state may request the assistance of the local council in promoting the sale of Arts Lottery tickets.

Members are elected for a 3-year term, which is renewable one time for a second 3-year term. Members must remain off the council for a one-year interval before serving additional terms.

Special Municipal Employee Status conferred by MGL Chapter 10 Section 58.

Posted on: November 19, 2019

[ARCHIVED] Town Manager Seeks Members for Town Boards & Committees

The Town Manager continues to seek volunteers to serve on Town Boards. Boards and Committees that have or may have vacancies include the **CDBG Advisory Committee, Council on Aging, Conservation Commission, Cultural Council, Energy and Climate Action Committee, LSSE Commission, Participatory Budgeting Commission and Public Art Commission.**

[Current List of Vacancies](#) | [List of All Boards and Committees](#)

Here is a little about each of some of the committees. Follow the link to each committee to learn more.

- [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 - \$825,000 in FY19 - 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.
- [Council on Aging](#): The Council is a nine member body that acts as a policy making board and advocate for the elderly of Amherst before local, state and national bodies. The Council helps seniors remain independent and in the community by providing information and linking them to resources in the community.
- [Conservation Commission](#): The Conservation Commission is a seven-member board appointed by the Town Manager and charged with ensuring the protection of the Town's natural resources and conservation areas. The Commission is responsible for administering and enforcing both the state Wetlands Protection Act and the Town of Amherst Wetlands Protection Bylaw, which involves reviewing and permitting projects within and near wetlands. The Commission also works closely with the Conservation Department on management of conservation land, including over 80 miles of trails, and establishing environmental policy such as updating the Open Space and Recreation Plan.
- [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.
- [Energy and Climate Action Committee](#): The Committee is building on the efforts of the Town to address climate change at the municipal level and broaden those efforts to include the greater community. The Committee is responsible for recommending long-term climate action goals that focus on reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and building adaptation and resilience within and across the Town's residential, commercial, and municipal sectors. It will also guide the Town in establishing and meeting its climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience goals.
- [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.

- **Participatory Budgeting Commission:** The Town Charter also calls for the creation of a Participatory Budgeting Commission to propose a measure to adopt participatory budgeting or other similar method of resident participation in the budgeting process in Amherst. Two residents have been appointed by the Town Council and three residents shall be appointed by the Town Manager. There is one opening available. The Commission shall propose a measure to the Town Council by September 1, 2020. The Town is seeking individuals of diverse backgrounds to serve on this commission.
- **Public Art Commission:** The Public Art Commission fosters a greater community awareness of the interaction with public art, and through public art, promotes cultural diversity and an improved quality of life for Amherst's residents.

The Town Manager seeks residents who have relevant expertise or experience. We are 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