



AMESBURY
culturalcouncil
theartofcommunity

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By City Clerk at 3:53 pm, Mar 18, 2025

Tuesday, May 7, 2024 6:30pm-8:30pm

Usually Meets 1st Tuesday of Every Month

MEETING LOCATION: Cedar Street Studios, 14 Cedar Street, 1st floor meeting space, Amesbury, MA.

Welcome + Attendance Roll Call (AJ) (6:33pm) - AJ calls meeting to order

Present: Madison Barnes (MB), Margaret Leahy (ML), Ann Johnson (AJ), Amy Vander Els (AV), Sally Nutt (SN), Randy Herman (RH), Brian Riley (BR), Rachel Wallace (RW - Pending), Aimie Westphal, Library Director (Liaison)

Absent: John Moynihan (JM), Laura Kozlowski (LK)

Approve April Minutes (6:35pm)

(AJ) Amendment to minutes regarding direct grant process - ACC brought the proposal to City Hall, not MCC; change "Margaret welcomes" to "Sally welcomes"; AJ motions, ML seconds, approved

Public Comment

Guests: Kristen Connelly, Jeffrey Briggs

Kristen proposes the idea of a garden tour; was referred to ACC; Aimie refers her to the Amesbury Improvement Association

Treasurer's Report (AV) (6:43pm) - \$28,168.76 in expense account, processed 1 poetry reading reimbursement; \$12,870.27 - Chamber finally submitted for their \$600 grant last year

Marketing Report (ML) (6:46pm) - ML passes out business cards; rack cards to be printed soon

-Would like to have ACC presence at upcoming public events

-May 11, Community Marketplace - Madison will probably attend on 5/11

-June 1, Lake Gardner Beach Festival - we wrote them a letter of support, but this is not one of our grant events

-AV talked to Sheila, asked if we wanted to re-up our ad package w/ Amesbury Merchant - deadline is July 15th for August 1st printing

Grants Report (ML) (6:50)



-Public Input Survey: ML - Time to send out to determine grant priorities for the next round. Google Form link that we can share, Newsletter, Social Media etc. 94 responses in 2023. ML read questions from last year to see if there are any changes/additions. Erasing Optional Question #9. Sending it out ASAP, results submitted by August 30. Answers compiled in Google Drive.

-ML passes out sign-up sheet for grant recipients' events

Open Studios (6:59pm)

-Presentation at Chamber's Business & Breakfast in June - SN says there isn't a set date yet, but this is a great opportunity to solicit sponsorships

AV - Sheila asked if we would want to hold that Business & Breakfast meeting in the Cultural Center - may be a movement to try to improve it (parking is an issue though); AW recommends getting the bathrooms cleaned, \$100 per cleaning

-List of open studios in MA - SN - If anyone's interested in looking at other Open Studios, the MCC has a list of events in the state

AV attended Somerville Open Studios, huge compared to Amesbury, but a lot of similar features to ours; Somerville has a "first look" exhibit, samples of all the artists participating in the tour - could be a possibility for our Open Studios

AJ - Combine it with Art@City Hall, name & studio space on each tag

Art @ City Hall Report (7:03pm) - AJ - Current exhibit comes down May 16th & 17th; Had the biggest round of submissions ever for All Mixed Up, about 32 artists, 60+ pieces submitted; this show is going to be really different, very abstract, not traditional; reception would be May 21st or 22nd (need Mayor's office approval)

Public Art Report (7:08pm)

-“Carriages to Automobiles” sculpture - Jeffrey Briggs (JB) - Piece was commissioned in 2001, originally proposed for Carriage Museum in Lower Millyard, plan fell through, sat in storage ever since; thought the ACM would be interested now in their new space, but don't have room for it; JB would assume all expenses of transporting it, if only we could find a home

AV - City Hall is a possibility; a school could use it – trying to think of places that would have the space for it; MB - What about Dan Healey?; AJ - Lobby of 21 Water Street?; SN will scope out City Hall and figure out who to talk to



-Amesbury Industrial mural update - AV chatted with Greg Jardis, showed him Kate Delaney's rendering, he suggested several design changes; Kate sent a new rendering, still pending Greg's approval; Kate came back w/ a proposal under \$10,000, won't have to go to bid; she would get \$9,999, we would pay \$4,000 for the boom lift (2 separate vendors)

-AJ motions to approve budget for Kate's mural, BR seconds, approved

-AV chatted with Regenerative School, they haven't found a spot for the garden we're helping to fund, wanted to put their garden in front of mural site, TBD

Poet Laureate Report (BR) (7:31pm) - Proposed to the Poet Laureate Committee ways of bringing Amesbury art + poetry out into the larger world. Lisa Phillips suggested hybrid readings (in-person + Zoom).

Lots of positive feedback about Poetry Month events; Tapestry of Voices high school poets have been selected, Chris Bryant will notify; reading happens in August.

New Business (7:34pm)

-Amesbury's 2030 Master Plan - (SN) a draft of the Master Plan has been published, did not get approved; on the City website available for review

-Round Table of nonprofits at Chamber's Business & Breakfast on 4/24 - SN went to the last Chamber breakfast, we can tap some of these orgs for Open Studios support - Zac Fields' subsidized instrument program could be a possible partner

Matters not reasonably anticipated in advance of the meeting (7:40pm)

-Trails & Sails (RH) - June 1st deadline is too soon for us to put something together; AJ says we can let artists know it's happening, they can open their studios

-AJ - Next meeting we will dole out responsibilities for Open Studios

-SN - Rachel gets sworn in next Tuesday the 14th

Dates on the calendar

-Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 4th

Adjourn (7:42pm)



AJ makes a motion to adjourn; MB seconds; approved