

# Amherst Cultural Council

September 9, 2015

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Amherst Room of the Jones Library.

Committee members in attendance: Ellen Kosmer (co-chair), Honore David (co-chair), Arnold Friedmann, Gretchen Fox, Andrea Battle (treasurer), Georgia Barnhill (secretary).

Staff Liaison: Sondra Radosh

Absent: Lynda Faye

Others present: Eric Boudry (photographer), Therese Donohue (Picture Book Theatre), and Roxie Schneider (Green Street Brew)

## **Agenda:**

Introduction of Council Members

Welcome to Community Members.

Discussion and questions.

Business meeting of Council

Report from Treasurer (deferred)

Overview of Granting Procedures

Setting Dates and Times for Fall 2015 votikng meetings

Ellen Kosmer opened the meeting by introducing the new members and each person said a few words to the group. She then expressed the gratitude of the Amherst Cultural Council (ACC) for the fine work done by Jim Scott, former member of the ACC and treasurer.

Honore David explained the process the ACC uses to evaluate proposals. Each applicant submits ten copies of the proposal that are distributed to ACC members. The ACC evaluates past performance, service to the Amherst community, and the involvement of a professional in the applicant organization. The proposal must be specific with regard to venue and date of activities and a confirming letter from the venue should be included with the proposal. If the proposal comes from an organization in a neighboring community, the ACC evaluates whether the proposed activity will attract an Amherst audience. Supplemental materials are welcome and the ACC encourages new and creative ideas.

In the past fiscal year, the largest grant was \$1000; the smallest, \$100. There were 80 applications, of which 70 were funded. For this cycle, the ACC has \$25,300 to distribute.

The deadline of October 15 is strictly observed and applications may be submitted to the ACC through the Jones Library or mailed by the deadline. Guidelines specific to Amherst are available through the Massachusetts Cultural Council website.

Questions from Roxie Schneider focused on expenditures made by recipients of grants of money raised by her organization's concert. It was noted that her organization can distribute funds they raise as they wish.

Therese Donohue had a question about obtaining funding for two different events in a cycle. It was recommended that proposals come from two different sources—her organization and the Eric Carle Museum.

Eric Boudry had a question about being reimbursed for expenses incurred while trying to do his project which never came to fruition. The ACC concurred that he should submit his expenses and they will be funded.

The visitors left at 4:35 p.m.

The calendar for fall meetings at the Jones Library is as follows:

October 22, 2015  
October 29, 2015  
November 12, 2015  
November 19, 2015  
December 3, 2015  
December 10, 2015

All meetings will begin at 4:00 p.m. The first meeting will be abbreviated since it will be devoted solely to the distribution of the proposals.

Sondra Radosh reported that she had received a question from Laurie Resta about a payment. Andrea Battle, treasurer, reported that her grant payment is being processed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by Georgia B. Barnhill, Secretary