

GREAT BARRINGTON CULTURAL COUNCIL MINUTES
FINAL

Location: Town Hall, 334 Main Street, Great Barrington MA
Date: September 3, 2019
Called to order: 7:40 pm

- I. Tate moved to approve Minutes from Aug 20, 2019, Rees seconded, all agreed.
- II. Mission Statement Committee Report: After discussion, the Committee decided to wait until the survey has been distributed and collected for a larger sample response (28 responses at this point).
- III. GBCC Community Survey Update: Rees found a ballot box formerly used for collection of the trifold surveys; signs are still needed. Nan mentioned that Erika Crofut, local artist at The Hill House, had attended the last meeting and offered to decorate the boxes. Discussion followed: We will probably want about 10 distribution locations; Rees needs list of past locations and will contact Erika. We also need the location lists used by the Transportation Committee for their survey. We will review the old survey which is online on the town's Facebook page. and re-do as appropriate (Tate). It was agreed to eliminate the due date and just keep the survey open for maximum response. The survey will inform the Mission Statement, which in turn informs the grant selections. However, this year we will need to follow the existing Mission Statement.
- IV. Public Relations Officer. This individual is responsible for the social media. Patrick was nominated by Tate, Ellen seconded, all approved.
- V. With current membership, 5 members are needed for a quorum.

Amy has taken on too much and can no longer do Cultural District council. Need backup Secretary in case Nan can't be here. Haley offered, motion was made seconded and approved; Haley is backup secretary.

Tate discussed with Sue, the town accountant, that we had \$230 in our grant account, but she was unable to locate the funds. Our system is one of grant reimbursements, but confusion exists about what accounts were used; we cannot verify the amount. We need to meet with Sue after 9/17 but before 9/30. The Council will reimburse Rees the \$40 he spent on copies; he can copy for free at Town Hall in future.

The last public input was in 2015. On our website, the old application is posted. New cycle starts Sunday. Distribution of application via The Hill Listserv and others was discussed. In previous years, date and proof of venue was required with application, though it was omitted

last year. After discussion, Rees moved to eliminate the proof of venue, Tate seconded, all approved.

Cultural District wants to meet with us in early Oct. Tate to send out Doodle poll. Their annual mtg is Sept 17 @ 9am, St. James Place. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Ellen suggested a combined meeting of the Cultural District and town Cultural Council so they can stay aware of what we are doing, and we can learn more about them. PR Rep will write a press release. They request October, after annual meeting 9/17 at 9am. We need to post the new application. Eileen may be happy to give us a page to discuss this. She introduced us in her Newsletter.

Old Business:

We have the extra \$400 to balance the \$230 in our account. The deadline for grants to come in is after 15th. We start reviewing early November. Should take 2 meetings (last year took 5). We need to post new application. Eileen may be happy to give us a page to discuss this. She introduced us all in her Newsletter this week.

Citizen Speak: Ellen Maggio and two members of the Berkshire Children's Chorus board came to introduce themselves before the grant cycle starts. The Chorus was a finalist in the Holiday Stroll Junior, Senior and Coda. They brought statements, material and copies of their letters written to the Mass Cultural Council and to Governor Baker. Next year is their 30th season. Originally, they included 6th-9th grades but older kids were interested and they expanded. Scholarships are given to students in need; also allow parent managers to apply funds toward tuition. They always apply to all Cultural Councils. Concerts are no fee, but they request payment according to ability to pay. Donations are extremely important to their budget, but inclusivity is the most important. It is a school year program that meets weekly. On June 14 this year they performed the "Earth Mass" collaboration at Norfolk Yale Music Center, doing the Missa Gaia with over 100 children and a soloist from the Paul Winter Consort. Many of the students are from GB (because of Julie Bickford's involvement). They also have children from Pittsfield and from CT, NY, and elsewhere in Mass.

Kate Burke apologized for spotty attendance as the rep from the Select Board. She is glad to give updates to the Select Board if we just send her an email.

Meetings will be at 7:30 going forward. Much discussion of dates: Tate to update calendar.

The suggestion was made to meet every other week to get through them.

Next meeting:

Tues 29th 7:30

11/5 (and maybe a 2nd date in Nov)

12/3

Motion to adjourn made by Tate, seconded Patrick, all in favor.

Electronically Signed by Nancy Coleman, Secretary.

FINAL