

Michael D.
Andelman
Susan Pettee
Lauren Clark
Catherine Hancock
Ellen Shanahan
Rose Tannenbaum
Patrick Barrett
Tate Coleman
Amy E. Taylor



TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
MASSACHUSETTS

CULTURAL COUNCIL

Minutes

Wednesday, January 9th, 2019 at 5:00pm
Mason Library
231 Main Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230

- 5:01 PM: Call to Order
 - Present:
 - Members: Rose Tannenbaum, Michael D. Andelman, Susan Pettee, Tate Coleman, Lauren Clark (5:08 PM)
 - Citizens:
- Michael mentioned that Kate Burke has not been attending our meetings for the past few months. She had previously said she would attend our meetings, but has only attended 1 or 2. We have not had guidance regarding OML as we requested.
 - Michael said he has requested someone from the selectboard
- Susan inquired about the gentleman who has expressed interest in joining the Cultural Council
 - Michael noted we are not having consistency with members showing up
- Michael noted Lauren and Rose still have to sign the OML
- Catherine arrives and takes over minute taking at 5:15
- Catherine is very excited that Michael brought cookies.
- Michael motions to approve minutes form 12.26.18. Tate seconds, all in favor.
- Reviewing reason for Aston Magna's decline: they wrote a note to Susan P asking for clarification on their decline. They stated that they fit within the parameters on our website and they only asked for \$300 and were informed that we have more money to distribute this year. They would like to know if anyone had been offended on the GBCC

by them or if there is anything they could do in the future. Susan responded that she was sorry they were disturbed by their rejection and it was on the agenda and we will write them with further clarification.

- We had rejected them based on the fact that we didn't feel that it was as educational as other projects on our scale of 1-5 it received a 2, and that it wasn't geared towards children. The cost to the public is a 1 out of 5 meaning it is expensive to the public. The funds use also received a 2 out of 5 as well.
- Patrick arrives at 5:25pm.
 - Guidance for future years: making it more children friendly, educational, or making the cost to the public lower. The cost to the public was the biggest factor.
 - We had also discussed in the review process that we favor smaller projects with smaller costs- we may want to expand our wording on our website for what the GBCC prioritizes in terms of what we are looking for. We tended to focus on more educational projects, smaller budgets where our dollars would go further, we focus very locally. Rose noted that for an organization like Ashton Magna it may be that they are looking for town support and that is valid. Although it is noted in their letter that they help stimulate the economy and therefore hold value in the town, however the GBCC is not an economically oriented council.
- Deadline to submit Annual Report on January 15th. Susan is working with Justina from the MCC on completing the Annual Report. Presumably appeals should be in before then, but we are wondering if that is a very short amount of time to submit appeals.
- Michael wants to make sure that we are in order with the amount that we have to distribute- Tate looks up our funds on the website and the money that we have online does not match what is in our account. Michael will bring it to the town accountant to sit down with her and go over exactly what the funds are- to make sure that we don't have less money than we granted. Michael will figure out what our numbers are and go to town hall and cross check what's on the MCC website with what Town Hall has.
- Rejection letters have until the 15th to receive appeals. We're not sure how that works with the annual report due... We'll have to have the number accurate for the annual reporting. If we happen to be late we are unsure of what will happen and whether we will lose funds.
- Michael is requesting we reopen the numbers of Renaissance Lute Songs for Children and Music in Common since we weren't in quorum last time and couldn't alter their numbers. Susan moved to open the award conversation. Tate seconds. Catherine can't talk. This is a contingency plan if our funds are less than we thought they were. So in the event that we don't have enough money for our grant awards. We would also lose the money we had reserved for the GBCC event, survey of town citizens, etc. If the two projects go to half the amount they asked for, we would have enough money to give awards to all the projects we granted money to. Michael moves to vote that if an organization was awarded more than 50% of what was requested and we don't have the amount of money that was listed on the MCC website, and the amount that the GB accountant quoted is correct, the GB, we will reduce those organizations to receive 50%. Patrick seconds. Tate is concerned that we are not supposed to change the amounts after

12.30. This may be the case, but we may have received misinformation. Michael says that this is a preemptive move. Michael moves to vote. All are in favor. Minus Catherine still can't say anything.

- Catherine is allowed to talk.
- New Business:
 - Michael is hopeful we will have about \$700 for an event. A few things that we have talked about wanting to do is a questionnaire at the town meeting in May. What do we want to put in it and how can we try to get more of a response than last year? Susan says a few years ago we had an event where artists can participate.
 - Rose notes that we should go to the events that we fund. Michael says he has gone to a few. Rose wonders if we should make a point of a member of the GBCC should be at the events we fund. We should put in our award letters that we would like to be invited to the event. Patrick says we could even do some promotion for them. Should be listed on town website. Rose says in the past we have sent out press releases with our award list. Lauren says we should also talk about the table at town meeting as well and ways to make it more engaging.
 - We have also explored using a gallery for an event. Michael is renting a gallery for the month of April for a show featuring new artists. Michael would like to do a call for artists as part of the GBCC for artists to be able to tell their stories and present art on a date in April. We could have a night of where the GBCC hosts an evening in the space- sharing our own art and encouraging community members to attend, learn more about the GBCC, and share their own work. Locals, transplants and transient. Awakening and past histories. Lauren says she has a lovely card from a previous event and thinks that we should update it and hand it out at this event. We want it to coincide with ArtWeek and we will fill out an application to submit to ArtWeek by January 11th. They recommend doing things not on peak days. We feel we should maybe do something for kids. We're thinking a Sunday the 28th in the afternoon.
- Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 13th at 5:30pm
- Michael requests that Catherine sends the minutes to the whole GBCC
- Michael motions to adjourn. Susan seconds. All in favor at 6:34pm

Signed: Catherine Hancock 1/15/19