

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



TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
MASSACHUSETTS

CULTURAL COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday, December 26th, 2018

5:30pm

Mason Library

231 Main Street

Great Barrington, MA 01230

5:41 Michael calls meeting to order.

Present: Michael, Catherine, Susan, Ellen.

- Although only 4 people are present, the GBCC decides to start the meeting, to be able to discuss relevant items without taking any action since the meeting does not have a quorum. Ellen reviewed rules and the present members are able to informally talk about items without voting.
- Michael notes that it is important for members to arrive on time.

Tate arrived at 5:44 and we are in quorum.

Michael motions to approve 12/19 minutes. Ellen seconds. All in favor.

Old business:

Certifications:

- Michael requests that all members specifically confirm with Marie are all up to date on ethics training by the EOY.

Voting on the remainder of applications that are not complete. Based on last week's meetings we are voting on incomplete applications.

- Michael gets us up to speed: we have said yes to a number of applications and if we award all yes applications it would be over our limit. We also are able to use 15% or the funds for the GBCC. Meaning we can distribute \$4330.75 to grantees.

- The balance that we gave to the Railroad Street Youth Project was based on the money that we had in FY18, and the two reimbursement checks we have to give to the Housatonic River Project and the Leaf Peeper Chamber Concert from FY18's grant awards. We are assuming that the grant money should have been set aside from last year's funds.
- Monument Mountain Regional High School: Fall festival of Shakespeare. Retroactive. Served 450, not primarily children. Helped students put on a play with 2 guest directors. Project total budget was c. 13K. Students helped raise money. Applied to many other LCC's. Asking for \$500. Michael motions to vote and discuss. Ellen seconds. Michael reviews our feelings about retroactive applications. Ellen says she's more inclined to support this project over larger retroactive projects. Catherine notes that students participating in fundraising indicates its value to the students. We are wondering whether they have applied for a retroactive and prospective project, as there are 2 Fall festival applications. Catherine suggests we move on in the interest of time. Catherine motions that we vote. Susan seconds. All in favor of project.
- CHP: Healthy Living through Dance. 5 people served. Susan notes that those figures makes it a no. Supporting tuition to 5 families to send their children to dance classes. Berkshire Pulse. Asking for \$250. 1K budget. Indicated that if they didn't get funding from us the project would be canceled. They didn't fill out the application very well- they put that the project didn't serve children when it does... Ellen moves to vote. Michael seconds. Catherine notes that inability to follow instructions and it is incomplete indicates project may not be well organized. Discussion comes up about the seriousness of completing applications as they are supposed to be done. We have seen good applications that are all complete. Ellen notes that it is surprising that CHP and Berkshire Pulse will not cover the remaining \$250. Michale moves to vote. All not in favor.
- Berkshire children's chorus in Sheffield: Happening this academic year. estimates 1100 youth served. We assume they are including audience members in that number. Asking for \$300 out of \$4K. Susan notes that there are not that many kids in the chorus. Michael moves to vote. Ellen seconds. Susan notes that she is inclined not to support because they are a good program but they have many other funding sources, they are expecting \$3300 from 11 other LCC's. Michael moves to vote. All not in favor.
- Daniel's Art Party Secret City. Retroactive. Estimated 200 people serve. Requesting \$1500 for salaries. Seeking reimbursement to assist with one event only. Doesn't serve primarily children. Michael moves to vote and discuss. Tate seconds. Susan notes this sounds strange, and that an even flopped and they lost money. Michale moved to vote.

Right now Michael has a list of all the yes's with dollar amounts and suggests we take two rounds of estimated allocations.

We're over our budget if we give everyone their full amount. Michael moves to go through each grant and discuss how much money we want to allocate to each grant. Generally we gave between \$50 and \$250 last year. We only gave partial awards last year (generally cut in half). We're going to go through each yes twice to decide amounts.

- Arts and Recovery for Youth: \$1K requested of a over \$40K budget. Catherine leans towards \$500 for first pass. Second round: Michael suggests adding \$65.75. All in favor.
- Balloonaverse of Stories: \$745 out of \$745. Catherine notes that it is alarming that they want us to cover their whole budget. Ellen They have applied to two other LCCs. \$345. Second round: \$375.75.

- Fall Festival of Shakespeare: \$500 requested. In the past we've given them \$200 but they've asked for \$250. Second round
- Lute Songs: Asking for \$500. Catherine recused. No quorum. Voted yes before but without a quorum we can't adjust the number. Awarded \$500.
- MIC musical meetups and common: Asking for \$500. Ellen recused. No Quorum. Cannot adjust number. Awarded \$500.
- Berkshire Ukulele band: Asked for \$500. We want to award \$250
- Math and Drumming \$500 asked. We're awarding \$250.
- Berkshire Voices: \$500 requested. We're awarding \$250.
- Pop up Habitat: \$500 requested. \$250 awarded. Second round moved up to \$295.
- Monument girls write on: \$450 requested. \$250 awarded. Susan notes that boys are being left out. Tate suggests lower since it is held in West Stockbridge. \$175 awarded. Second round: upping it to \$200.
- Moon and Stars: \$395 total and asking for \$395. They applied to no other LCCs. Susan thinks it is a really cool project. Michael says we can give them the whole thing. Tate says we should give them \$295. All in favor.
- Celebration of Songs: \$350 requested. Michael suggests \$250. All in favor.
- WEB Du Bois at Berkshire Hills regional School Educational Series: Request for \$300. \$200 awarded.
- Nutshell Playhouse: \$200 out of \$725 and they already have \$525 raised. \$150 raised.

Michael adds up total awards. \$4164 but we need to get to \$4330 based on our available amount and allocating the 15% to the GBCC for required community event. We have \$165.75 to give out.

After second round we have allocated all of our funds. Held onto 15% for our event.

Rejection letters: Tate asks if town will pay postage. We have to send No letters by Monday. Then No's will have a chance to appeal. There is a form letter on the MCC website. Giving the reason for denial will be easy for incomplete applications, but for complete applications we have to give a reason for denial. There are 26 no letters. Tate notes that based on our decision to fund some projects with no LOS's we can't use that as a reason. Catherine says we could say we prioritized complete applications. We don't have time to decide how to divide. Catherine says she will do it. Michael says he will assist. Catherine says she would like cookies at the next meeting.

Annual report due 1/15. Then yes letters can be mailed.

Next meeting before the 15th. Wednesday, January 9th at 5pm.

- Catherine can only attend at 5:30. Tate will take minutes before she arrives.

Ellen moves to adjourn at 6:55pm. Catherine seconds. All in favor.

Signed: Catherine Hancock 1/3/19
GBCC Clerk