

Great Barrington W.E.B. Du Bois Legacy Committee

Zoom videoconference

DRAFT Minutes of the Wednesday, March 24, 2021 meeting.

Attending: Barbara Dean, Emily DeVoti, Thasia Giles, Tim Likarish, Sara Mugridge, Leah Reed, Randy Weinstein, Stephanie Wright.

Absent: Reverend Sloan Letman IV, Gwendolyn VanSant, Emily Williams.

1. Call to Order

Emily DeVoti called the meeting to order at 5:55pm.

Ms. DeVoti ran the meeting at the request of Mr. Weinstein due to technology considerations.

All votes at this meeting will be made via roll call.

2. Review of minutes

Motion: Barbara Dean made a motion to approve the January 28, 2021 minutes.

Second: Sara Mugridge.

In favor: all; opposed: none.

3. Old Business

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Likarish gave updates on the budget and finance issues.

The donation account has \$3,046.21. This includes a reimbursement to BRIDGE for the festival opening dinner in the amount of \$1,099 and an honorarium to Dr. Williams of \$500.

Still needs to be reimbursed: cost of closing dinner, to Ms. VanSant (approx. \$1,000) which was charged to a personal credit card.

The town needs a personal credit card statement, but this can be redacted (account number and other charges for that statement obscured for the public record).

Of the town account, there is @ \$1,000 remaining, but there are still some outstanding costs to reimburse.

Next year's budget has not been included on the overall town budget, so a member of the town needs to explain to the committee how funding will be granted. This person needs to get on the committee's agenda for a near-future meeting.

Mr. Likarish said that the committee received \$150 from the Great Barrington Cultural Council, and he will handle the paperwork to receive this.

Budget report submitted with these minutes.

Open Meeting Law & Conflict of Interest

Mr. Weinstein shared that those who have not completed this e-learning course must do so by the next Legacy Committee meeting.

Du Bois Festival De-Briefing

The committee discussed its appreciation of all the work and involvement that went into the making of the festival, and how effective it was.

Ms. Dean expressed how effective the birthday events was, particularly given the times and constrictions of the pandemic. She expressed her appreciation and amazement at the amount of work that the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center gave to this project.

Ms. Reed said that because the events were recorded, she was able to share them on social media and confirms that they reached a lot of people. She received particular feedback that people thought it was phenomenal to hear W.E.B. Du Bois's family speak, the young people, and the awards, and that it was an overall phenomenal program.

She also commented that W.E.B. Du Bois's name was repeatedly mispronounced by a town official, and this drew some very angry feedback from social media and other contacts.

Mr. Likarish said that it is a time capsule, a public record. And that perhaps in the future we can find a way to amend it so that Du Bois's name is pronounced correctly for posterity.

Ms. DeVoti said that it was a seachange year for Du Bois in Great Barrington (school naming, Du Bois Day), so it was actually a very important year to have a recording that can be shared and archived.

Ms. Giles said that the intergenerational conversations were so wonderful. And that the Mahaiwe really stewarded the event.

Ms. Mugridge asked: How do we debrief our own process as a committee? There was inequity in the labor involved in the creation of the festival. How do we address this? How do we make things more transparent about what's getting done, and who is doing it?

We need a place to set out roles, flow of responsibilities, etc.

The idea of a shared Google folder was presented.

Ms. Giles suggested that we create a NEW Google account, for the committee.

Then, the committee can store files here to be shared within the group.

Thank you cards

Mr. Likarish agreed to create a file for thank you cards, where people can sign up.

Ms. Dean suggested that the committee find a way to thank the Mahaiwe in a more substantial way, perhaps a small donation, which would be appreciated during these financial stressful times.

Ms. DeVot suggested that a different way to thank them could be to put an ad in the Shopper's Guide, publically thanking them on behalf of the Town of Great Barrington.

The committee agreed to discuss these ideas at the next Legacy meeting.

4. New Business

The Du Bois Statue

Mr. Weinstein gave an update on Chesterwood's involvement. He said that our contact there recommended that the town/committee hire a professional fundraiser to take on the project.

This topic also needs to be discussed at the next meeting.

Other topics for the next meeting:

- Annual calendar for the Legacy Festival, timeline of tasks: when to select theme of festival, when to invite speakers, when to ask for banners to be put up, etc.
- Annual calendar for Du Bois Legacy Award process

5. Citizens Speak

No citizens were present in the call outside of committee members.

6. Adjournment

7.

Motion to adjourn Ms. Dean

Second: Mr. Weinstein

In favor: all; opposed: none.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 21 at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily DeVoti
Recording Secretary