

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

Great Barrington Fire Station, 37 State Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230

FINAL Minutes of the Wednesday, January 9, 2019 Meeting

Attending: Barbara Dean, Emily DeVoti, Wray Gunn, Justin F. Jackson, Leah Reed, Gwendolyn VanSant, Freke Vuijst, Randy Weinstein, Stephanie Wright.

Absent: Julie Fagan, Reginald Leonard, David Magadini

Also attending: Selectperson liaison Ed Abrahams; Berkshire country residents and dedicated Du Bois volunteers Tim Likarish, James Manning, and Sara Mugridge. Also town resident: Fionn DeVoti Roland.

1. Call to Order

Chair Randy Weinstein called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

2. Approval of the minutes.

The minutes for the meeting of December 2018 were reviewed by the committee.

Randy Weinstein made a motion to approve; Freke Vuijst seconded.

Vote: in favor, unanimous.

3. Old Business

Legacy Committee Finances:

Gwendolyn VanSant gave an update on Finances.

To date, the committee has raised \$7500.

Greylock Federal Credit Union: \$5,000. This was granted after Ms. VanSant approached Greylock, and she and Ms. DeVoti met with them on behalf of the Legacy Committee.

Berkshire Bank: \$2,500. This was granted after Ms. VanSant and Ms. DeVoti wrote a grant and applied for funding on the Bank's web portal.

Multicultural BRIDGE, Ms. VanSant's nonprofit organization, has acted as fiscal sponsor for the Legacy Committee, accepting funds on the Legacy's behalf and distributing as the Legacy Committee requests.

As the fiscal sponsor, BRIDGE accepts 6% of the funds for administrative and processing fees.

Ms. Van Sant explained that up to this time, this is how the Du Bois Festival has been funded. Donations to the Legacy Committee are made to fiscal sponsors Multicultural BRIDGE or Randy Weinstein's nonprofit Du Bois Center, with a memo line on the check of: Du Bois Legacy Festival.

Motion: Leah Reed made a motion that Multicultural BRIDGE and the Du Bois Center act as fiscal agents for the W.E.B. Du Bois Legacy Committee events for 2019.

Freke Vuijst seconded this motion.

Vote: unanimous, in favor.

Ed Abrahams suggested that the committee meet with Sue Carmel, the town accountant.

Randy Weinstein suggested that Wray Gunn and Freke Vuijst join Gwendolyn VanSant to for a Finance Task Force to meet with Ms. Carmel, discuss finances and codify practices.

Motion: Ms. VanSant made a motion that this group meet with Ms. Carmel to talk and codify finance procedures.

Ms. Vuijst seconded this motion.

Vote: unanimous, in favor.

Du Bois Legacy Budget 2019/2020 to Town of Great Barrington:

Ms. Vuijst has submitted a Du Bois Legacy Committee budget proposal for 2019/2020 to the Town of Great Barrington.

Trust Policy Advisory Group update

Ms. VanSant and Ms. Wright have spoken with Police Chief Walsh. They have decided the Legacy Committee might not be the right place to house the Trust Policy Advisory Group. They will update the committee on future developments as they arise.

4. Upcoming Legacy Festival

MLK Interfaith Celebration: Legacy Festival Kick-off

Financial discussion:

In the past Ms. Gunn has passed the basket at the Interfaith service. The funds he collected have then been split between agreed upon non-profits. Mr. Gunn said in the past all money has been collected and paid out to cover the expenses of the event on the spot.

Two questions arose from this discussion as pertains the Legacy Committee (a town committee) taking over the proceedings:

1. Can the town (the Legacy committee) collect donations?
2. Can money from this collection/donations go to groups that the people on the committee also represent? (e.g., Clinton Church Restoration & BRIDGE)

Mr. Weinstein has a call in to the Massachusetts Ethics Committee, but has not to date heard back.

The town says that they may be able to set up an account for the committee, to accept money and then pay out immediately. This is another issue to be taken up with the town accountant.

MLK program of events:

There has been some confusion over the past few months about who will host the MLK event. In October, Vivian Orlowski asked the Legacy Committee to take the event over, after 19 years of it being hosted by the Southern Berkshire Interfaith Clergy Association. Plans were made by the Legacy Committee to host the event, but recently the Interfaith has expressed a wish to have more involvement in the event. Therefore, the two agendas will be united for this twentieth anniversary of the MLK event, and the Interfaith will resume command of the noontime Interfaith service, integrating within that a panel discussion on MLK organized by the Legacy Committee.

Morning: Day of community service, hosted and organized by BRIDGE.

12:00 noon – 1:15pm, Interfaith service:

welcome/call to worship, hymn, dance, MLK panel discussion, song, offering, closing hymn, benediction.

1:15 – 1:45pm: reception

A volunteer potluck (organized by a collective of BRIDGE volunteers)

1:45 – 2:30: community sharing

Event Sponsors:

We will ask sponsors of prior Interfaith services (info provided by Mr. Gunn) if they will again donate to the event. Mr. Gunn will check with Kathleen George about signing over food vouchers to cover breakfast.

Extra Special Teas will donate their teas for the morning.

Motion: A motion was made that the plate go to the Legacy Festival

This was seconded by Barbara Dean and Ms. Vuijst

Vote: all in favor, unanimous.

Ms. Reed suggested that next time, a potential sponsor could be the Divine Nine. (She is a member of one of the sororities and could help with an approach).

Ms. DeVoti shared a new draft of a fundraising letter with the committee.

Debriefing request:

Mr. Gunn asked Ms. VanSant to create a document for debriefing and to capture event details to help with next year (what happened that day, how many people attended, \$ spent and earned, etc.); Ms. VanSant agreed.

Flyer for the Legacy Festival:

All copy for events must be submitted to the google doc sent out by Ms. VanSant by January 17th! She will then handle the printing of flyers in time for the MLK event.

***Beyond the Veil* update**

Emily DeVoti reported that everything is on track with the play; it's completely cast.

She requested help spreading the word.

Planned help:

J.V. at BRIDGE will make an event for it on the Du Bois website

Ms. Reed will share any Facebook page event that is created and will share with Miss Hall's School. Ms. Mugridge will share with Simon's Rock.

Ms. DeVoti will visit Ms. VanSant's BRIDGE/Greylock Teach Fellow/MCLA class at Pittsfield Highschool on January 15th to talk about the play, about Du Bois and Edith Wharton, and about her own story and path to creating the play.

OLLI

The first OLLI class is also on 1/25 from 3:30 to 5pm. The students expect to meet members of the Legacy Committee. Who can be there? Ms. Wright, Mr. Gunn, Ms. Vuijst think they can join course organizers Ms. VanSant and Mr. Weinstein.

There will be a request out to Simon's Rock to videotape the lectures again this year.

Du Bois Birthday Celebration: 2/23

Time: 1-4pm, location: First Congregational Church, GB

1.5 – 2 hour concert, organized by Barbara Dean

David Levering Lewis, historian who won a Pulitzer Prize for his biography of Du Bois, will speak and be presented with a Du Bois Pioneer Award by the town of Great Barrington.

Other possible speakers: Smitty Pignatelli, Senator Adam Hinds

We would like NAACP Berkshires Chapter president Dennis Powell to be a part of the festival. Ms. Reed will speak with him about how he would like to engage.

Sound systems needed for MLK event and for the birthday.

5. Upcoming Dates

This coming Monday, the Selectboard will review request to hang Du Bois banners along Main Street again. Any members of the Legacy Committee who can be there to show support, please attend.

6. Citizens Speak

Selectman Ed Abrahams reported that the ICE arrest the day prior to the meeting was not sanctioned by the Town of Great Barrington; they had no involvement in it. Had the town been contacted by the police, they would NOT have been involved per the town policy (Sanctuary agreement).

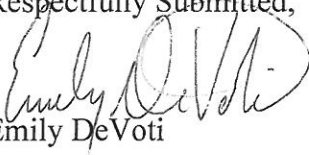
7. Next Meeting – Adjournment

The next meeting date is set for **Wednesday, February 13th from 5:15 – 6:45pm**, at the Firehouse.

This is the second Wednesday of the month – earlier than usual, to give time for festival planning. Future meetings will resume on the third Wednesday of the month thenceforth, 5:15 – 6:45pm at the Firehouse.

Ms. Reed made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Vuijst seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:28pm

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Emily DeVoti".

Emily DeVoti

Recording Secretary

3/12/19