

Heath Cultural Council
Minutes of Meeting
September 24th, 2021 10:00 AM at Heath Community Hall
Approved 11/19/21

Attendance: Barbara Gordon, John Clark, Rachel Grabelsky, Lisa Burke and Harry W. Hallman.

Meeting called to order by Chairperson, Barbara Gordon, at 10:08 am. .

1. **Motion** by John Clark to recommend to the Select Board Noy Holland for a one year appointment to the Heath Cultural Council. **VOTED:** Unanimously approved.

Barbara will formalize the request through Hilma for consideration at the next SB meeting.

2. Lisa Burke reported that she is in the process of marketing her Heath property and will eventually be relocating to Kansas. She is willing to remain on the Cultural Council until she relocates, at which time she will submit her resignation to the Select Board.

3. Minutes of the 7/28/21 meeting reviewed. **VOTED:** accepted as written unanimously. Rachel will now post these approved minutes on our Town HCC webpage.

4. General discussion on the Building Use Committee's adopted rental and liability insurance policy for use of Heath Municipal buildings by the Select Board and how that affects future local arts and cultural programs. Barbara Gordon detailed three possible options that programs might consider for future planning:

- A. Project receiving an individual HCC grant could be "sponsored" by an existing town appointed committee so as not to be required to pay rent or procure private insurance for the use of the building
- B. Be executed as a "Heath Cultural Council Project" whereby members of our Council would collaborate fully in the planning, PR, and execution of the project with the group or individual (no individual grant application required).
- C. Follow the traditional route of applying for an individual grant from the Heath Cultural Council and adjusting their budget to cover the additional anticipated expenses for rent and required liability insurance for use of Heath municipal space.

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In light of the above, the following programs that were affected this year made the following adjustments in their 2021 projects:

- A. Heath Arts Exhibition was granted sponsorship by the Select Board for their 2021 event after Barbara petitioned them to consider this temporary solution.
- B. Heath Historical Society "Dining with History" program cancelled their Annual Meeting and Dining with History events.
- C. The Square Dance program cancelled all of their events due to COVID-19 concerns.
- D. The Summer Weaving Program moved from Community Hall to hold their planned program at a private residence in Heath.

Using the information gleaned from a ZOOM meeting with Pam Porter (Building Use Committee) and Robyn Provost-Carlson (Select Board Chair) on August 5, 2021, Barbara has had individual discussions with these three applicants in an effort to help them find ways to plan successful projects in FY22 under the current Town Building Use Policy.

The outcome of those discussions is as follows:

- A. The Heath Art Exhibit chooses to move forward as an independent project in 2022 and will apply for a traditional grant from the Heath Cultural Council.
- B. The Heath Historical Society Dining with History series will move forward, if possible, as a private, independent project in 2022, or will discuss sponsorship with the Heath Historic Commission.
- C. Susan Gruen's Summer Weaving Program would welcome becoming a Heath Cultural Council Project for FY22, and would appreciate our members assisting in its planning and execution in Community Hall.

Doug Wilkins reported that he will hope to hold the annual square dance at the 2022 Heath Fair under the umbrella of the Heath Agricultural Society who will provide the venue, PR and insurance. He may apply for a traditional CC grant (or an extension on his current un-used grant) to fund the caller and musicians. He is not willing to plan and execute our previously

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approved Fall Square Dance Series at Community Hall in 2022 under the current building use model. He feels that it is too costly and cumbersome for him to tackle.

Barbara suggested that we consider taking on the never yet realized Fall Square Dance Series at Community Hall as a Heath Cultural Council Project. This would involve our CC members taking responsibility for securing the venue, PR, planning and the physical hosting of the events. We would hire Doug Wilkins as a 3rd party contractor to provide caller, musicians and sound system. The cost of the events would come out of a LCC project fund.

We can use up to 20% of our FY22 MCC grant to plan and host LCC projects or events that we feel are addressing needs in our community that are not otherwise being met. Our annual budget from MCC this year is \$5,000, so we could spend up to \$1,000 for LCC projects.

Moved, seconded and **VOTED** unanimously to fund the square Dance program next grant cycle in the amount of \$850 (which should fund 2 dances and some PR) and the Summer Weaving program in the amount of \$150 *as "Heath Cultural Council projects"*.

VOTED unanimously that Barbara Gordon will be the point person for these two Cultural Council projects, a requirement of the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Barbara, Rachel, and John agree to plan and staff the dance events.

Barbara and John agree to assist in planning and staffing the Summer Weaving program.

\$1000 of our FY22 budget will be set aside for these HCC projects and not be made available for traditional grants.

5. PR Report: Rachel Grabelsky reported that she posted notice of this meeting on our HCC webpage on the Town of Heath website and in the Town Calendar. She has published

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notices announcing that applications for Heath Cultural Council FY22 Grants open on September 1st and close on October 15th as legal notices in the Greenfield Recorder, on the Heath Town website and on our new HCC Facebook Page that she established for us. Rachel also produced a flyer with this information and placed copies in the Heath Public Library. As our PR person, she looks forward to intermittently “show casing” the programs that this committee funds on our new Facebook page and in the Heath Herald.

6. Lisa Burke **moved** that the Secretary mail notices to this year’s 2021 grantees to encourage those programs delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions apply for an extension or modification of their grants. Seconded and **VOTED** unanimously.

7. Discussion regarding how to handle FY19 grants that became FY20 encumbered grants due to extensions granted until February 13, 2021 due to COVID. The question being whether to consider second extensions if they are still unable to realize their projects vs encouraging them to apply for new grants. Three projects were granted extensions: Footlights in the Falls (\$300), HillTown Draw Around (\$200) and Heath Fair Music (\$1,000). Heath Fair music was executed this summer, but hasn’t yet applied for reimbursement. The other two projects’ statuses are unknown. **Moved** not to offer applications for second extensions/ modifications of 2020 grants. **VOTED:** Unanimously approved.

8. Rachel suggested then **moved** by Barbara Gordon to establish a Gmail account for the Heath Cultural Council for 2023 grant cycle. It is too late to use the proposed new e-mail for this FY22 grant cycle because the contact information has already been published for FY22 applicants. Motion **VOTED;** approved unanimously.

9. Consensus decision to meet in November, 2021 to vote on FY22 grant applications. All members must register in the new SmartSimple MCC platform to view the upcoming panel book.

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If masks are required, John Clark requested that the committee meet by Zoom. Barbara agreed to investigate use of a Town Zoom Host account, or find a private party with an account to host us. Harry Hallman volunteered to do a one page summary of grant application for ease of voting.

10. **Moved**, seconded and unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 11:55 AM.