

Heath Cultural Council

Meeting Minutes

Nov. 19, 2021

Barbara Gordon, John Clark, Rachel Grabelsky, Heather Row, Marty Newman in attendance.

With all 5 members present, Barbara called the meeting to order at 1:04 P.M.

1. Introduction of members:

John is a musician, tree farmer , lives on 8A, and is our ZOOM host

Rachel lives in N. Heath, does p.r.for the HCC, marketing and advertising for the Heath Herald, is a graphics designer and potter

Heather has a banking background, has been on the Conservation Commission, is an amateur musician, and church choir director

Marty has an MFA in printmaking, paints, sculpts, and worked in art galleries

Barbara is Chair of the HCC, is a retired vet, a fiber artist, and involved in various community dance programs

2. Motion to approve meeting minutes from 9/24/21 made by John. All members voted in the affirmative. Rachel will post to the town's website.

3. Barbara sent letters on October 3<sup>rd</sup> to all 2021 grantees who had not yet applied for reimbursement to inquire whether they needed to request extensions or modifications due to being impacted by COVID.

Three applicants are requesting that their 2021 grants be changed or modified:

- i. All of Doug Wilkins's planned dances were cancelled due to COVID this year. Of his \$1,850 grant, Doug Wilkins would like to return \$1,350 from the unrealized 3 Fall Community Dances at Community Hall. He requests an extension to December 31,2022 of the remaining \$500 portion approved for the 2021 Heath Fair. He hopes to hold the previously outlined dance event at the Heath Fair in August of 2022. John made a motion to accept Doug's request. All members voted to approve.
- ii. Piti Theater requests to change their \$ 450 grant from a live performance to a video project. A copy of the video will be given to the Heath Library. John moved to accept the proposal and all members voted to approve.
- iii. The Art Garden Draw Around wants to modify their application (rescheduled from 2020 due to COVID) from an in-person event to providing drawing kits to individual students.

Heath children will receive these kits through the Heath Library Youth program. John made a motion to approve and all members were in favor.

4. Discussion of HCC FY22 administrative budget to set aside. Barbara said that up to 5% was allowable by the Mass Cultural Council. Some of this could perhaps be used to cover ZOOM meeting expenses. Barbara proposed that we set aside \$ 250 administrative purposes. John moved to accept and all members voted in favor.
5. Barbara gave an overview of the two HCC projects that had previously been approved for a total of \$ 1000 :
  - i. Two community square dances, hiring Doug Wilkins to provide musicians and sound equipment for \$ 850.
  - ii. Summer Weaving class led by Sue Gruen with John and Barbara helping to organize for \$ 150.
6. Discussion about what might be an ideal cultural council size. We need a minimum of 5 members. Barbara pointed out that maybe 7 would be better in case members couldn't attend a particular meeting as well as to provide a buffer for future loss of members rolling off of the committee and still maintaining the minimum State requirement of 5 members. John agreed. Heather said that having extra bodies could help spread out the work load. Then the question as to how and where to find new recruits. Heather suggested looking at other local cultural councils to see what they do. Rachel mentioned that an ad had been placed in The Heath Herald seeking new members. Recruiting is something to work on, all agreed. A proposal to increase the size from 5 to 7 was made. John moved to accept proposal and all members voted in favor.
7. Barbara reminded everyone of MCC guidelines for reviewing grant applications as well as the HCC priorities. Also mentioned was helpful reference material from the MCC website to aid in reviewing the applications.
8. Discussion of potential conflicts of interest and how to proceed according to Mass. State laws and MCC rules. Barbara mentioned that if a member has a potential conflict of interest ( i.e. has submitted a grant application to be voted on by the council), she/he must not be in the room and cannot vote on that particular application. This applies to John ( uncles of the Pioneers) and possibly Rachel ( Heath Herald ). Also anyone involved with the Heath Art exhibit or the Mohawk Trail Concerts might be affected. Barbara will look into this further to get clarification from MCC and get back to members with her findings before we meet again.
9. Barbara doled out our assignments :
  - Marty to transcribe minutes and send to everyone for review.
  - Heather to make spreadsheets to aid the reviewing process.

Rachel to post meeting agenda to Heath town website.

John will schedule and host meeting on ZOOM for Dec. 6.

Barbara will get back to everyone with conflict of interest information.

John made a proposal to adjourn the meeting and all members were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 1:59 P.M.