

Heath Cultural Council Meeting Minutes Thursday, December 9, 2021, 1:00PM
Virtual meeting via ZOOM

Members in attendance: John Clark, Barbara Gordon, Rachel Grabelsky, Marty Newman, and Heather Johnson Row.

Visitors: none

Review of November 19, 2021, minutes. Approved unanimously as written.

FY22 Grant Applications First Pass Review.

Barbara read the number and title of each application in the order they were presented in the MCC Panel Book. Council members were given the opportunity to express potential value and interest in each application. If a single member expressed interest in discussing the merits of an application, it was earmarked for later discussion and full consideration. If no interest was expressed by any member for consideration of a listed project, it was determined to be denied funding. The following verbiage was utilized:

A. "Is there any support for in-depth discussion of this grant application?"
"Hearing none, I will entertain a motion to deny application #_____, for the project_____.

Second? Discussion? All in favor of denial? All opposed to denial?"

B. "Hearing support, we will return to this application later in this meeting for further consideration".

All denials voted during this part of the meeting were unanimous.

On the first pass, the following applications were denied due to no support from any member of our Council:

LCC-10532: Summer Spectacle Subsidized tickets program/ Double Edge Theater

LCC-14908: The Catnip Junkies: Live! From the Heath Fairgrounds

LCC-7224: Hilltowns Intergenerational Drum Circle

LCC-15085: Franklin County Pride 2022

LCC-4265: Folk, Jazz, and Film Music for Trumpet and Piano

LCC-9092: Voices: Folk, Jazz, and Film music for Trumpet and Piano

LCC-8391: The Heath Herald (duplicate application requested to be withdrawn)
LCC-9279: Henry the Juggler Performance
LCC-14376: Cycle of Memory
LCC-6109: Music and Education Event
LCC-12688: Duo Pianists, Composers & Educators Whipple & Morales in Concert
LCC-15810: New American Banjo Festival
LCC-14648: The Living Presence of Our History Part VI
LCC-10370: To Life: Celebrations in Story, Song, and Music
LCC-14582: New England Sax/Wind Quartet
LCC-2066: Songs and Stories- The Highwaymen

The immediately denied applications were considered unacceptable for a variety of reasons, each of which was entered later into the MCC Smart Simple System from the options offered. Most were denied due to failure to meet our local criteria, or failing to verify a local partner, (inadequate evidence of local community support). Given our limited funding and high number of applications, a few were denied because they were not considered to provide enough local community benefit when compared to other proposals we received.

FY22 Applications, second pass review:

A second pass was made, in order, of the applications which at least one Council Member had deemed worthy of consideration. Each of these applications was voted through proper motions, seconds, discussion and voting. All approved applications were approved unanimously by our Council.

Amounts to grant to each project were not finalized until a third pass, when we could review the amounts requested relative to our available funds. Out of our total original available funds of \$6,690, as permitted by MCC, \$250 was set aside for administrative costs, and \$1,000 was set aside for our previously approved FY22 Council-Led projects (Summer Weaving program and two Fall Community square dances). This left us with \$5,440 available for FY22 granting. Heather Johnson Row, acting as our Treasurer, tracked our budget and helped us to ensure that all available funds (\$5,440) were granted without overcommitment. The following projects were approved. Total grants approved was \$5,440.

THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS WERE APPROVED:

The amount requested by the applicant is listed first, followed by the amount we ultimately unanimously voted to appropriate.

LCC-14565: Charlemont Forum Summer Speaker Series: \$300 / \$200 granted.

LCC-14951: Concert with the Uncles of the Pioneers: \$500 / \$400 granted

**John Clark left ZOOM, recused from discussion and vote due to conflict of interest. Paperwork filed with Town. All voting Council members pre-filed an “appearance of conflict” document with the Town prior to meeting due to serving on the same Council as John.

LCC-8081: 2022 Heath Artists Exhibition: \$700 / \$500

**Rachel Grabelsky left ZOOM, recused from discussion and vote due to conflict of interest. Paperwork filed with Town. John Clark and Barbara Gordon filed different paperwork with the Town documenting that they each served with the applicant (Harry Hallman) last year on the HCC and acknowledging ability to avoid favoritism when considering this year’s application from him.

LCC-2030: Teaching Weaving: \$550 / \$300

LCC-9448: Heath Fair Music: \$1,200 / \$1,000

LCC-11334: Summer Reading Program Heath Library \$150 / \$150

LCC-14245: Heath Herald \$600/ \$600

**Rachel Grabelsky left ZOOM, recused from discussion and vote due to conflict of interest. Paperwork filed with Town.

LCC-11369: 3 Local History Talks, Heath Historical Soc: \$350 / \$290

LCC-3664: Hilltown Families Suggests: \$250 / \$150

LCC-15116: Hilltown Youth Performing Arts Summer Workshop: \$2,000 / \$150

LCC-5831: Mohawk Trail Concerts Summer fest 2022: \$500 / \$400

**John Clark left ZOOM, recused from discussion and vote due to conflict of interest. Paperwork filed with Town.

LCC-8095: Kids Mindfulness: \$750 / \$500

LCC-15698: Shelburne Falls Theater Festival (Piti): \$500 / \$200

LCC-5198: Community Outreach for Racial Justice-Year 2: \$200 / \$100

LCC-16159: Winter Whimsy: Ephemeral Public Art: \$200 / \$200

LCC-12227: 9th Annual Pocumtuck Homelands Festival: \$100 / \$100

LCC-11252: Council on Aging Senior Art Program: \$200 / \$200

The following applications were fully discussed and DENIED:

LCC-8292: Heath Community Yoga Revival: \$750 / \$Zero

LCC-11417: Lake Yoga Summer Expansion: \$450 / \$ Zero

These two applications were denied after extensive discussion. Kate Peppard had filed three separate Yoga project applications. We unanimously agreed that we could only afford to fund one of them this year. We unanimously elected to fund her youth-oriented summer program, believing that it would be the most currently relevant due to the severe impact of COVID isolation on the mental health of our youth.

TREASURER, Heather Row, charged with maintaining a spread sheet of our budget and approved FY22 grants.

CHAIR, Barbara Gordon, charged with entering DENIALS into Smart Simple System for auto delivery of decisions.

CHAIR, Barbara Gordon, charged with entering APPROVALS into MCC Smart Simple System for auto reporting 2 weeks after denials distributed (only if no formal requests for reconsideration received from applicants receiving denials.)

CHAIR, Barbara Gordon, charged with sending APPROVAL letters electronically via HCC Gmail to all successful applicants by 1/30/22.

Adjourned through unanimous vote.

Draft of Minutes prepared by Barbara Gordon 7/23/22

Approved unanimously as written 8/17/22