

Heath Cultural Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 23, 2023 Virtual Meeting via ZOOM

Call to Order: 6:05 PM

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

Visitors: none

Review of July 24, 2023 meeting minutes: **VOTE:** unanimously approved as written.

Additions to Agenda:

Barbara added a brief discussion of the need to identify and appoint new members by June 30, 2024. At that time JC will retire, MN will roll off, Heather might or might not choose to accept a 3yr reappointment. This might leave only Rachel and Barbara. We must have at least 5 members to meet State requirements and receive ongoing MCC funding. Heather and Barbara each discussed two possible candidates to approach. All agreed that it is acceptable to invite seasonal residents and non-residents to join us. Meetings via ZOOM allow anyone to participate from most any location.

Barbara added an Advocacy update: We assisted Hilma in submitting a “second look” application for a MCC Cultural Facilities grant to restore the windows in Community Hall. It was recently approved. Total budget \$34,000. Matching program, \$17,000 will need to be raised locally. Fund raising committee to be appointed by SB in the near future. Please spread the word to interested parties.

Barbara updated Council on grants reimbursed since last meeting: Davis Bates Library performance, Hilltown Families Suggests, Music at Charlemont concert series.

VOTE: Unanimously approved to set aside 5% (\$275) of our annual budget (\$5,500) from the State for administrative purposes. This leaves us with \$7,280 for FY24 granting which is composed of annual from State, earned interest on accounts, plus balance of unused grants and administrative funds from 2022 grant cycle.

FY24 Grant Applications First Pass Review:

The following grant applications were unanimously denied:

FY24-LCC-69262 Franklin County Pride 2024 (Reason for denial #1)

FY24-LCC-62638 I AM... (Reason for denial #1)

FY24-LCC-60615 Afternoon of Brass #3 (Reason for denial #2)

Denial #1: *Does not provide as much benefit to our community as other applications*

Denial #2: *Does not meet our local criteria.* Added personal info: “Concerts are held too far away from our community. We give priority to local projects.”

(NB: These denial reasons are prewritten choices on SmartSimple platform.)

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FY24 Applications, Second pass review:

All remaining applications were unanimously deemed relevant.

Each individual application was discussed in order, at length. Rachel was recused for the discussions of Heath Herald and Heath Artists Exhibition and left the meeting during them.

John was recused for discussions of Mohawk Trail Concert Series and left the meeting for that.

COI forms were previously submitted by John and Barbara regarding deliberation on Heath Artists Exhibition application due to serving on the HCC previously with the applicant, Harry Hallman.

Some concern was expressed about FY24-LCC-67638 *Make Seed Paper to Plant*, because it is held in Cummington and the sponsoring Homeschool Cooperative has self reported through email communications to be currently only serving ONE Heath child. Since the project has an Earth Day component that will open attendance to any interested parties, we agreed to support it with reduced funding this year. This is a new applicant.

Other unanimous concerns were discussed at length regarding FY24-LCC-63692 *Arts and Crafts Workshops for Seniors and All Ages* submitted by the Heath COA and FY24-LCC-61784 *Musical Performance* submitted by the Heath Free Public Library. Both project proposals are lacking in specific details and show no evidence of planning beyond a “general concept”. Their budgets are also vague, since the true cost of their projects are yet to be determined. Neither have yet identified proposed individuals to present their intended program(s). Ultimately, because we have a generous budget this year, and we wish to support our local COA and Library, we unanimously decided to fund, fully or partially, these programs with the understanding that we will not be able to seriously consider applications from them in the future without better evidence of detailed advance planning. NB. “Demonstrated Planning” is a specifically published local criterion for prioritizing grants by our LCC. This concern will be communicated to these applicants by separate private letters after approvals are announced.

FY24 Applications, Third pass review:

After discussing all “approved” applications individually, third pass review determined ultimate funding amounts for each applicant while tracking our total budget. John and

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Rachel were not present for the funding determinations made on the projects they were recused from.

THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS and amounts WERE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY:

*****The amount requested by the applicant is listed first, followed by the amount we voted to appropriate. All votes were unanimous.******

LCC-67495 Summer Speaker Series 2024 Charlemont Forum: \$300 / \$300
LCC-65102 Nature Explorers Workshop Series 2 & 5 Franklin Land Trust: \$300 / \$300

LCC-57991 2024 Heath Artist's Exhibition: \$800 / \$800
LCC-63426 Weaving A Common Thread: \$500 / \$500
LCC-65221 Heath Agricultural Fair Music 2024: \$1,025 / \$1,025
LCC-63692 Arts & Crafts Workshops for Seniors and All Ages, Heath COA: \$350 /\$350
LCC-61784 Musical Performance, Heath Public Library: \$800 / \$605
LCC-63594 The Heath Herald: \$700 / \$700
LCC-58112 Hilltown Families Suggests: \$300 / \$300
LCC-72210 Hilltown Youth Recovery Theatre: \$750 / \$500

LCC-60290 Pothole Pictures 2024 Film Series: \$250 / \$250
LCC-66622 Summer Festival 2024 Mohawk Trail Concerts: \$500 / \$500
LCC-71967 Mohawk at the MFA: \$2,100 / \$300
(NB that the \$2,100 was listed as total cost to be divided between 8 towns in the district in the budget details)
LCC-63292 Settler and Indigenous Life in the Colonial Period: \$100 / \$100
LCC-71061 Dance and Choreography Workshop, Piti Theatre: \$350 / \$350
LCC-71142 The Hilltown Draw Around, The Art Garden: \$300 / \$300
LCC-67638 Make Seed Paper to Plant: \$150 / \$100

ACTION POINTS:

TREASURER, Heather Row, charged with maintaining spread sheet of our budget and verifying that we are distributing the entire (and exact) \$7,280 FY24 grant budget. She will distribute a copy to our Council members.

CHAIR, Barbara Gordon, charged with entering DENIALS and CONDITIONAL APPROVALS into the MCC SmartSimple system tonight. DENIAL notifications will be sent out automatically by MCC.

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If no requests for reconsideration are received within 15 days by those receiving denials:

CHAIR, Barbara will complete the final portion of the ANNUAL REPORT, which will verify the budget against the approved grants and then CONDITIONAL APPROVALS will be automatically moved by MCC into APPROVALS and brief automated emails will go out from MCC to successful applicants.

Once this is completed:

CHAIR, Barbara Gordon will send individual email letters (template provided by MCC) to approved applicants including the specific requirements of our grants (dates of completion, documentation, acknowledgements with links to graphics, terms of reimbursement etc.). This all should be completed by November 13, 2023 if there are no requests for reconsideration.

BARBARA will also prepare the DRAFT MINUTES of this meeting and circulate to members for review.

RACHEL (PR) will:

1. Post approved minutes of our Summer Meeting on our Town Web files.
2. Set aside column space in next Heath Herald for announcing FY24 Grants
3. Post released FY24 Grants on our Town Web page and HCC Facebook page.

Council members will hold November 6, 2023 open in their calendars for a reconsideration meeting if needed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM

Draft of Minutes prepared by Barbara Gordon 10/24/23
Amended and approved unanimously 12/6/23