

# Heath Cultural Council Meeting Minutes

**Sunday, November 4, 2024**

Call to order: 1:05pm

Members in attendance: Heather Wynne, Cindy Davison, Barbara Gordon, Doug Wilkins, Sarah Coe.

Review of October 23, 2023 minutes: **Vote:** Unanimously approved without changes.

## **Additions to Agenda:**

Due to the high number of applicants and limited funds, the council had to make hard decisions. Last year, most grants were fully funded. That was not going to be possible this year.

Barbara distributed a list of FY24 grants reimbursed since the last meeting and remaining FY24 projects that have not yet applied for reimbursement (See attachment). It was also explained to new members that 20% of the FY25 state funding can be used by the council to fund a “Council-Led” project or event in Heath. All members declined to lead an FY25 council project.

A maximum administrative budget of 5% of FY25 state funding is allowable (translates to \$285 this year). When Cindy and Barbara prepared the annual financial report in October, \$200 was tentatively set aside. The only administrative fees needed over the past few years have been to fund virtual meetings, such as the paid version of Zoom or its equivalent. Barbara proposed reducing this years’ admin budget from \$200 to \$153, making an even \$6700 available to grant.

**Vote:** Proposal to change the FY25 administrative budget to \$153 was unanimously approved.

## **FY24 Grant Applications First Pass Review:**

Doug Wilkins was recused for the discussions of the Heath Square Dance Band fee and Ashfield Community Square Dance. Barbara Gordon was recused from discussion of the Heath Agricultural Society. Both left the room during the relevant discussions.

The following grant applications were unanimously denied on first pass:

LCC-86862 I AM ... (Scott Maloney) (reason for denial #1)  
LCC-91573 Hilltown Families (reason for denial #1)  
LCC-91993 South River Singers Community Choir (reason for denial #1)  
LCC-93607 Franklin County Pride (reason for denial #1)  
LCC-93843 The Theft of Dignity (Dennis Wise) (reason for denial #1)  
LCC-99665 Outdoor Sculptures "You are Here" (Jennifer Powell) (reason for denial #1)  
LCC-104204 Ashfield Historical Society (reason for denial #1)  
LCC-104285 Montague Shakespeare (reason for denial #1)  
LCC-100498 Evening Sky Tours (reason for denial #1 due to duplicate app)

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

### **FY24 Applications, Second pass review:**

The remaining applications were each discussed at length, and all decisions were unanimous.

Doug Wilkins and Barbara Gordon were recused from discussing and voting on the applications as mentioned above, and left the room during the relevant discussions.

The following applications were denied on second pass:

LCC-99146 Piti Theatre (reason for denial #1)  
LCC-97189 Community Square Dance (Alexis Fedorjaczenko) (reason for denial #1)

Despite admiration of the Piti Theatre program and many years of supporting their initiatives, concerns centered on how many Heath residents would benefit from the workshop as compared to other applications this year. Decision was made not to fund them this year.

The application for the Community Square Dance in Ashfield was denied with regret. Distance from Heath was mentioned, but also that there is one other grant funding a square dance at the Heath Fair Heath that would better benefit our local community.

There was further discussion about LCC-97713 A Celtic Celebration by Davis Bates. The cost seemed very high for a one-hour presentation. The council would like to show support for events at the library, however, members expressed concern that this doesn't seem like a great relative value. The library has other means of funding, such as the Friends of the Heath Public Library, which could possibly cover part of the cost if they are enthusiastic about this project. The decision was made to fund, but possibly reduce the grant if our budget is too tight. The application was moved to the Third Pass Review.

### **FY24 Applications, Third pass review:**

The following application was denied on third pass:

LCC-94223 Hilltown Youth Recovery Project (reason for denial #2)

**Denial #2: *Does not meet our local criteria: (specifically, demonstrated financial need).***

This is an important program, but the requestor has not demonstrated financial need. The submitted budget describes income far exceeding listed expenses. On further consideration, the application was denied despite full council recognition for the important work that this organization does for at-risk youth.

All applications having been reviewed and discussed, funding amounts were decided on the third pass. Doug Wilkins and Barbara Gordon left the room during discussions of the applications from which they were recused.

The amount requested is listed first, followed by the amount funded.

**THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS AND AMOUNTS WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED:**

LCC-97713 A Celtic Celebration \$475 /\$200  
LCC-89748 Mohawk Trail Concerts: \$750 / \$500  
LCC-90509 Pothole Pictures (local musicians and movies): \$250 /\$250  
LCC-93197 Heath Herald: \$700 /\$700  
LCC-94676 Heath Council on Aging \$550 /\$550  
LCC-98793 Heath Square Dance Band fee (Doug Wilkins) \$700 /\$700  
LCC-98529 Museum on Main Street (Tinky Weisblat) \$350 /\$350  
LCC-98574 Heath Agricultural Society \$1250 /\$1250  
LCC-90414 Heath Artist's Exhibition (Harry Hallman) \$800 /\$700  
LCC-98907 Charlemont Forum \$500 /\$300  
LCC-99523 Films in the Barn \$937 /\$500  
LCC-103678 Evening Sky Tours (Jonathan Rehmus) \$500 /\$500  
LCC-101753 Winter HooPla (Art Garden) \$200 /\$200

### **ADDENDUM:**

All members present (with the exception of Doug Wilkins) had previously filed Disclosures re: serving on the Council with the applicant (Doug Wilkins). Barbara Gordon filed an additional Disclosure regarding serving previously with a current applicant (Harry Hallman). Doug Wilkins filed an additional Disclosure re: Heath Agricultural Society Fair Music.

### **ACTION POINTS:**

Treasurer, Cindy Davison, was charged with maintaining a spreadsheet of our budget and verifying that we are distributing the entire \$6,700 FY25 grant budget. She will distribute a copy to Council members.

Chair, Barbara Gordon, was charged with entering DENIALS and CONDITIONAL APPROVALS into the MCC SmartSimple system. Denial notifications will be sent out automatically by MCC.

If there are requests for reconsideration within 15 days by those receiving denials, the Council will meet to reconsider them on **Nov. 20, 7pm**, via Zoom. Sarah will provide the meeting link.

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

Chair, Barbara will complete 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.

Secretary, Sarah Coe, will send out local approval letters using the official Council email address once Doug researches expanding access and we successfully add new Council members to the Gmail account. Sarah will prepare draft minutes and distribute them to members. Minutes will not be formally reviewed for approval until our next meeting.

Doug (PR) will post approved summer meeting minutes on the town HCC web page, and will publish a listing of the successful applicants on the HCC and All Around Heath Facebook pages. He will also submit an article outlining the granted projects to the Heath Herald in time for their next edition.

Meeting adjourned: 3:37

Minutes submitted by Sarah Coe, Secretary with minor edits by Barbara Gordon, Chair, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Approved as submitted unanimously Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025