



South Hadley Cultural Council

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www.mass-culture.org/South-Hadley | www.facebook.com/southhadleyculture | southhadleyma.gov/385/cultural-council

South Hadley Cultural Council

March 21, 2022

Present:

Officers: Paul Lambert, chair. John Anz, co-chair. Dick Matteson, treasurer. Rebecca Slitt, secretary.

Members: Alexis Allen, Jen Ducharme, Mary Anne Myers, Alex Ripp

Guest: Susan Perry, MPIC

Called to order 5:05 PM

1. Approval of minutes from February

2. Updates from Susan Perry on implementation of Master Plan

- a. Susan has sent us the final version of the spreadsheet with the Cultural Council's goals according to the new Master Plan. The MPIC would like us to review it so that we can confirm that all of the goals are a) within the Cultural Council's jurisdiction, and b) actually feasible for us to do. We should use this spreadsheet as a checklist for progress reports to be given on April 1, August 1, and Dec. 1 every year. Those progress reports will be incorporated into the full MPIC report, which will be submitted to the Town Administrator.
- b. Q&A
 - i. Alexis: Where did this schedule of progress reports come from? Susan: The new town administrator wants periodic updates. Susan will send us reminders.
 - ii. Paul: How do we deal with the changes in Council membership? Some terms will expire between April 1 and August 1 every year. Susan: will check on that and get back to us
 - iii. Alexis: Will there be a mechanism for updating the Master Plan during its 10-year operating period? For instance, what if a goal looks feasible now, but the situation changes in a couple years so that it's no longer in our jurisdiction? Susan: will check on that and get back to us
 - iv. Dick: A related point – we're in an unusual position relative to other boards and commissions in that most of our mandates come from the Mass Cultural Council. If the state requirements change, how can we update the goals? Susan: will check on that and get back to us

3. Treasurer's Report

- a. Current balance in the Grant Fund: technically -\$5904.74
 - i. We have technically overspent the grant fund because the expected \$14,700 from the Mass Cultural Council *still* hasn't arrived yet! But we're still OK because the town has covered our shortfall
 - ii. As of March 18, we have paid \$11,085 to grantees for FY 2022. \$3675 still outstanding because some grantees have not submitted their paperwork. Dick will circulate a list of the grantees, and asks council members to get in touch with the recipients for whom they are the contact person.
 - iii. There are also still some grant recipients from FY 2021 and 2020 who have not submitted paperwork!
 - iv. After June 30 there is a major treasurer's report due to Mass Cultural Council, and Dick wants to get as many grant agreements paid as possible, both to get that report in good shape and to set things up well for the new treasurer

4. Followup on conversation with Lisa Wong about additional funding

- a. Report from subcommittee (Paul, John, Alex, Ira):

- i. Potential uses for funds:
 1. Music and/or dance festival → draft proposal for a big event in March 2023, celebrating international music and dance, involving whole town. Performances, workshops, collaborations with MHC and public schools. Reaching out to local restaurants too – discounts for attendees, etc. Possibly an ongoing grant for 3 years, with funding amount decreasing over each year and with us seeking other sources of funding so that it could become independently sustainable. (eg, funds from MASH)
 2. Human resources: consultancies, AV services – skills and services that we can't do for ourselves
 3. Communications resources: creating a schedule of cultural events (which has been on a lot of people's wishlists for a long time!)
- ii. Ira sent these ideas to Lisa Wong. She confirmed that these were the kind of projects that would fit the ARPA grant parameters. She also confirmed that we can have additional funds in the town budget for smaller projects, additional grants, etc.
- iii. Next steps: share proposal with the full group to get feedback; review ARPA grant form so that we can craft our actual proposal to fit.

5. Officer elections for 2022-23

- a. Alex and Mary Anne have volunteered for officer positions! We're very happy that they have. Alex is interested in grant coordinator; Mary Anne is interested in Publicity. (And maybe Secretary if nobody else can take it.)
- b. We have more slots to fill! We especially need a new treasurer, because Dick's term will end in 2023 and it would be best to have him around for a transition year to train the new treasurer.

6. Prep for next meeting

- a. Continuing to recruit potential officers so that we have a full slate
- b. Feedback on Master Plan spreadsheet
- c. More followup on ARPA grant subcommittee

Adjourned 6:02 PM

Respectfully submitted, Rebecca Slitt