

Arts & Culture in Public Places in Amherst Regular Meeting
Town of Amherst Municipal Building Councilmembers' Conference Room
Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at 7:00 pm
Approved Tuesday, September

Attendees: Debbie Doucette (co-chair), Sharon Seamans (co-chair), Burt Merriam, Joy Testa Cinquino, Maureen Cilano, Jacqueline Berger (liaison)

Excused Absences: Mary Jo Kahley-Wolf, Jenni Colwell

Minutes Approval: Sharon Seamans and Burt Merriam seconded to approve the July 2024 minutes with edits.

Chair Report: Debbie Doucette and Sharon Seamans

- Letters were sent congratulating Amherst Art Society winners.
- Letters are being sent to traffic box artists after completion of their work.
- Bags have been filled with event flyers and such to distribute during programs we table at. There was discussion about providing \$25 for purchasing bags for future use.
- Two new banners arrived. They are nice and feature the new logo. Will be used for upcoming events.

Treasurer's Report: Maureen Cilano

- An updated budget was provided.
- It was reported that we are good with invoices and payouts.
- Artist payouts, once approved with proper paperwork, are being handled.

Grants:

- Deadline to apply is Aug. 15. Debbie Doucette, Sharon Seamans, Burt Merriam, and Maureen Cilano will meet on Monday, Aug. 26 at 9:30 a.m. at Evans Bank to review them.

ArtStart: Burt Merriam reported that the summer programs reached 408 people. Some of the projects were easier than others for children, but they were all appreciated. Burt will submit a PO for materials purchased including rocks and clothes pins, etc. The committee thanked Burt for his commitment to organize, weekly set up, participation and take down of the tent, supplies, etc. for each workshop.

Workshop	Date	Number of participants
Rag Bracelet	June 11 (Bassett)	74
Stone Painting	July 6 (Village)	114
Origami	July 13 (Village)	111
Wands	July 20 (Village)	63
Clothes pins / wands	July 27 (Village)	46

Let's Do Lunch: Sharon Seamans reported that the July program was uplifting and well received. The final program is Thursday, September 19, in conjunction with Amherst Youth & Recreation, Amherst Town Parks, and the Amherst Senior Center featuring performer Dave Ruch on the Erie Canal.

The Let's Do Lunch program originally scheduled in October with the *Financial Guys* has been cancelled at the request of the Town Board which has oversight of committee initiatives.

Speaker/Topic	Date	Number of participants
Paul Kranz/Gardening	May 16 (BNHV)	27
Sotto Voce/Opera Performance	June 18 (Randall Church)	48
Crescendo Quartet/Barbershop	July 18 (BNHV)	27
Tom Haney/Wellness	August 15 (BNHV)	21 reservations to date
Dave Ruch, teaching artist/Erie Canal	September 19 (Amherst Veteran's Canal Park)	

Traffic Boxes:

- Deborah Doucette reported that boxes are being completed and they are beautiful. Three boxes are still being painted with five done.
- A photo was distributed of artist Margo Davis working on hers.
- The box in front of Daemen that was being repainted has been completed.
- Motion was made by Sharon Seamons and seconded by Joy Testa Cinquino, approved by the Board: ACPPB will purchase an additional 1000 postcards to be printed at Caboodles at a cost not to exceed \$250 for distribution at our upcoming events.
- Funds may be needed for concrete bases for traffic boxes that are being repurposed.

Informational Tables:

- Deborah Doucette and Marueen Cilano reported that tent presence was a good idea at the Williamsville Community band concert.
- The Amherst Symphony concert was cancelled due to the weather.
- It was suggested to hand out flyers as attendees are arriving or departing

Publicity:

- Joy Testa Cinquino has continued to advertise our events. The grant detail was published by Arts Services Inc., which has a large email list serve base. Let's Do Lunch events continue to be sent to the Bees, Buffalo News, WECK & WEBR's online community calendars.
- Since the committee is not permitted to establish its own social media (Facebook, etc.) page to promote our events, it was suggested to send our info for posting on the social media pages hosted by Music on Main.
- Joy will design a simple notecard for the board to use as thank you cards, etc.
- Joy will send a media release after all traffic boxes are done.
- An October date for a radio interview w/ WHTT needs to be rescheduled due to D. Doucette's schedule.

Old Business: Aluminum sculptures for display at an Amherst location are still desired, but will not be approved by the Town Board in 2024, as per Jacqueline Berger.

New Business: Everyone should continue thinking of new ideas to present at the September 2024 brainstorm meeting
The Arts & Culture board currently has two openings. Those interested should attend meetings as a volunteer “advisor” first.

Adjournment: Maureen Cilano motioned and Joy Testa Cinquino seconded for adjournment at 8:30 pm.

Next Meeting: September 10, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Minutes were recorded by Joy Testa Cinquino