

Arts & Culture in Public Places in Amherst Regular Meeting
Town of Amherst Municipal Building Councilmembers' Conference Room
Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 7:00 pm
Board Approved March 11, 2025

Attendees: Debbie Doucette (co-chair), Sharon Seamans (co-chair), Joy Testa Cinquino, Maureen Cilano, Jacqueline Berger (liaison), Mary Jo Kahley-Wolf, Kim Gabel

Excused Absences: Burt Merriam

Minutes Approval: December 2024 minutes will be reviewed and will be approved at a meeting with enough Board Member for a quorum.

Chair Report: Sharon Seamans

- **Motion passed:** Joy Testa Cinquino motioned and Debbie Doucette seconded to accept the meeting dates on the second Tuesday of the month, which will include 2/11, 3/11, 4/8, 5/13, 6/10, 7/8, 8/12, 9/9, 10/14, 12/9. There will be no November meeting.
- **Motion passed:** Maureen Cilano motioned and Mary Jo Kahley-Wolf seconded to accept the 2013 brainstorm list and Steubenville, Ohio items to our 2024 brainstorm list.
- Special Presentation for August 2025: Using a list of top 10 books of a decade, we hope to create an event where attendees can dress as their favorite character and enjoy a car show, music, and other events reminiscent of that decade. Goal is to promote the event starting in March. We might find inspiration from studying the history of Glen Casino. Joy Testa Cinquino also mentioned that Harry Potter has a huge following and there is a band call Harry and the Potters.

Treasurer's Report: Maureen Cilano

- A finalized 2024 budget was provided.
- A projected 2025 budget was provided.
- Maureen Cilano will print cards for us after receiving the file from Joy Testa Cinquino. Envelopes for these cards will need to be purchased.

Grants: Maureen Cilano

- Jacqueline Berger will send letters to 2024 grantees requesting proper documentation to show how the 2024 grant money was spent.
- Future grants may be impacted if documentation is not provided as the 2024 contract indicated.

ArtStart: Burt Merriam

- No update at this time.

Let's Do Lunch: Sharon Seamans

- Speakers for 2025 are being booked.
- Cost for lunches will be reduced to \$18 this year.

Speaker/Topic	Date (Location)	Number of participants
Carol Ann Harlos, Master Gardener	April 17 (BNHV)	
Fran Davis, Gold Star Mom Annie Gross, Blue Star Mom	May 15 (BNHV)	
Alan Nowicki, Roycroft Campus	June 19	
Daniel F. Korn, Civil War author	July 17 (BNHV)	
Special Presentation	August 21	
TBD	September 18 (BNHV)	
Sotto Voce, Opera Company	October 7 (Randall)	

Traffic Boxes: Debbie Doucette

- Press release announcing the 2025 contest will be released soon.
- Debbie Doucette dropped paint off for storage at the Youth & Rec. building. Maintenance workers stowed the boxes of paint in an unknown location. The scheduling for drop off and pick up of paint will need to be improved.
- A possible project to use the painted traffic boxes at the Highway Garage has been presented by Chris Schlegel.

Informational Tables:

- Informational tables will continue at future events.
- Possible locations include Bassett Park concerts, Island Park concerts, etc.

Publicity: Joy Testa Cinquino

- Channel 4 may interview Debbie Doucette and Maureen Cilano about the traffic boxes.
- Question was asked regarding new ownership of the Bees weekly newspaper and whether the publication will continue to run community events.

New Business:

Continue to brainstorm about the upcoming August special presentation.

Adjournment: Maureen Cilano motioned and Debbie Doucette seconded for adjournment at 8:43pm.

Next Meeting: February 11, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

Minutes were recorded by Mary Jo Kahley-Wolf.