

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

Attendees: Sharon Seamans (co-chair), Burt Merriam, Maureen Cilano, Jacqueline Berger (liaison), Mary Jo Kahley-Wolf

Excused Absences: Debbie Doucette (co-chair), Jenni Colwell, Joy Testa Cinquino

Minutes Approval: No quorum was present. December 2024 and January 2025 minutes will be reviewed and approved at the March 11, 2025 meeting.

Chair Report: Sharon Seamans

- Stickers will be ordered by Sharon Seamans for the information bags, and Jacqui Berger will pick them up.
- Our information table will be present at the June 8, 2025 Bassett Park Town of Amherst Farmers' Market. Sharon Seamans will contact the Amherst Art Society to include their information in the information bags.
- **Book Benches:** Sharon Seamans contacted a town in Kentucky that used fiberglass benches in the shape of an open book to hold a contest for area artists. The town acquired sponsors for the benches, artists submitted drawings, and the sponsors chose a drawing from the entries. The benches were clear coated and displayed for six months (bolted to the walkway) with a sponsor plaque nearby. After the six months, the benches were auctioned. The benches are approximately \$2,500 each. Sharon Seamans would like to start with four benches to be displayed inside a library and/or the senior center. Our liaison will take this idea to the town board and the library board. The Amherst Chamber of Commerce should be a source for sponsors.

Treasurer's Report: Maureen Cilano

- An updated 2025 budget was provided.

Grants: Maureen Cilano

- The grant meeting was cancelled due to weather and rescheduled for March 6, 2025 at 10:00 am.
- Reports from the 2024 awardees are still be collected.

ArtStart: Burt Merriam & Jenni Colwell

- Only a few supplies are needed this year: tin boxes, washi tape, and stickers.
- Burt Merriam will meet with Jacqui Berger to place the order.

Let's Do Lunch: Sharon Seamans & Mary Jo Kahley-Wolf

- Randall Church was reserved for two events.

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 (Randall)	
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 & Maureen Cilano

- Jacqui Berger printed the press release posters announcing the 2025 contest. Members will take a few posters to distribute.
- The town website has the contest announcement posted.
- Previous artists were emailed with the 2025 contest information.

Informational Tables:

- Informational tables will continue at future events.
- The Art Society or other arts and culture events can add information to the bag.

Publicity: Joy Testa Cinquino

- No update.

Old Business:

- Aluminum sculptures -- turtles

New Business: August special presentation points.

- Will need the band stand
- Will the libraries have the books available?
- Friends of Harmony performance
- Doo-wop singing group
- Dancing group
- Car show – 1950s cars only
- Face painting
- Mr. No for balloon shapes
- Magician
- Food trucks, popcorn, hot dogs – Jenni Colwell
- Location – Glen Park? – Need both village and town approval

Adjournment: Mary Jo Kahley-Wolf motioned and Burt Merriam seconded for adjournment at 8:37pm.

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

Minutes were recorded by Mary Jo Kahley-Wolf.