

Arts & Culture in Public Places in Amherst Regular Meeting
Town of Amherst Municipal Building Councilmembers' Conference Room
Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 7:00 pm
Board Approved April 8, 2025

Attendees: Deborah Doucette (co-chair), Sharon Seamans (co-chair), Burt Merriam, Joy Testa Cinquino, Maureen Cilano

Via phone: Jenni Colwell and Jacqueline Berger

Excused Absence: Mary Jo Kahley-Wolf

Minutes Approval: December 2024 – Burt Merriam motioned, and Maureen Cilano seconded.

January 2025 – Joy Testa Cinquino motioned, and Sharon Seamans seconded.

February 2025 minutes approved with edits – Burt Merriam motioned, and Sharon Seamans seconded.

February minutes revisions – under Chair Report, Book Benches – sentence edits:

After six months, the benches were auctioned. The benches are approximately \$2500 each.

Sharon Seamans would like to...

The ~~Williamsville~~ Amherst Chamber of Commerce should be a source ...

The board held a moment of silence in honor of Richard A. Rich, (Jun. 11, 1935 - Feb. 6, 2025), a beloved leader in the Amherst and Williamsville arts and business communities for several decades. Rich was also the father of AACPP Co-Chair Deborah Doucette.

Chair Report: Deborah Doucette and Sharon Seamans

- Deborah sent members information about the opera performance group- Sotto Voce performance in October.
- Discussion about an expenditure and PO for extra-large size envelopes for a mailer to past participants. \$95 for stickers and \$17.38 (Office Depot) for large envelopes. Jacqueline suggested to ask the town for envelopes in the future. Motion to approve Joy Testa Cinquino, seconded by Maureen Cilano.
- Sharon shared a letter received from Hutchinson Central Technical High School in Buffalo inviting participation in their May 21, 2025, World Culture Day. Because the school is not in Amherst and we have a limited manpower, we will be unable to participate.

Treasurer's Report: Maureen Cilano

- Spending in the past month was for the above listed \$95 and \$17.38.
- The Grants Committee met and updated the application.

Grants: Maureen Cilano, Deborah Doucette, Sharon Seamans, and Burt Merriam

- Final reports that were due by Jan 15, 2025, from last year's awardees were received by:
 - Amherst Chamber,
 - Amherst Symphony,
 - Friends of Harmony
- Jacqueline Berger said the Jewish Community Center paperwork was incomplete.
- The revised 2025 Grant Application needs to be added to the website.

- MusicalFare Theatre should not get an application since they are moving out of Amherst.

ArtStart: Burt Merriam

- Burt Merriam sent Jacqueline Berger the list of supplies for purchase. Copy of the list was distributed at the meeting.
- Maureen Cilano made a motion, and Burt Merriam seconded to have the town purchase up to \$300 in supplies for 2025 ArtStart tabling.

Let's Do Lunch: Sharon Seamans

- All speakers and locations, except for one, is confirmed.
- September program could be a culinary artist.
- Talked about a Literary Soiree/Affair/Hop – lunch dinner timeframe

Speaker/Topic	Date
Carol Harlos/Master Gardener	Thurs., April 17 Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village (BNHV)
Fran Davis – Gold Star Mom Annie Gross – Blue Star Mom	Thurs., May 15 (BNHV)
Alan Nowicki, Roycroft Campus	Thurs., June 19, Randall Church
Daniel F. Korn, Civil War author	Thurs., July 17 (BNHV)
Special presentation	Thurs., August 21 ?
TBD	Thurs., September 18 (BNHV)
Sotto Voce/Opera Company	Tuesday, October 7, Randall

Traffic Boxes: Deborah Doucette and Maureen Cilano

- We will vote on the entries at the April meeting.
- 8 boxes are planned for 2025.
- No new poster in 2025. Will laminate a flyer that shows the 2024 boxes from 2024.
- The boxes for 2025 are: Sheridan Rd. & Millersport Hwy., Sheridan Rd. & Bailey Ave., Sweet Home Rd. & Maple Ave., Sweet Home Rd. & Skinnersville Rd., Tonawanda Creek Rd. & Niagara Falls Blvd., Dodge Rd. & Campbell Rd., Millersport Hwy. & Crosspoint Pkwy., Wehrle Ave. & Lamarck Dr.

Informational Tables: Jenni Colwell

- Informational tables will continue at future events. Jenni is contacting community groups – possibility at Music on Main, Health Fairs, Senior Center programs, Amherst Symphony Concert at Island Park.
- We will continue distributing promotional plastic bags stuffed with flyers

Publicity: Joy Testa Cinquino

- Several sources were contacted to help promote the traffic box design contest including *Bee Publications*, *The Buffalo News*, *WECK radio*, *WEBR radio*, and social media pages including Snyder Neighborhood, Buy Nothing Eggertsville Snyder, What's Going On in Amherst NY, Music on Main, and Buffalo Arts.
- Updated the Let's Do Lunch 2025 flyer and distributed it to Amherst libraries
- Joy will contact the *Bees* about their annual spring/summer calendar guide.

Old Business:

Jacqueline Berger said she needs to submit AACPP member Joy Testa Cinquino's name to the Amherst Town Board to extend her tenure. It was inadvertently left off the list.

New Business:

Revisit the brainstorming ideas.

Any other programs to piggyback on?

Create our own? Family? Car show?

Joy to check on a Kite flying /kitemaking local organizations.

Adjournment: Maureen Cilano motioned, and Joy Testa Cinquino seconded for adjournment at 8:25 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town of Amherst Municipal Building, Councilmembers' Conference Room

Minutes were recorded and transcribed by Joy Testa Cinquino.

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