

Arts & Culture in Public Places in Amherst Regular Meeting
Town of Amherst Municipal Building Councilmembers' Conference Room
Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 7:00 pm
Approved Tuesday, January 13, 2026

ATTENDEES: Sharon Seamans, Joy Testa-Cinquino, Maureen Cilano, Mary Jo Kahley-Wolf, Faith Miller, Debbie Doucette, Jenni Colwell, Jacqui Berger, David Cinquino, Meghana Bapardekar

ABSENCES: Burt Merriam

MINUTES APPROVAL: Maureen Cilano moved and Debbie Doucette seconded to approve the October minutes.

CHAIR REPORT: Debbie Doucette, Sharon Seamans

1. NY + USA 250th celebrations: this guide may help us decide on activities for 2026.
2. New appointments and renewals for our board will be completed in January 2026.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Maureen Cilano

1. An updated budget was presented.
2. The Great Lakes Kitefliers Society was paid. Minuteman, who did the advertising signs for the event, was also paid.
3. Paint was to be purchased totaling approximately \$800.
4. Posters of painted traffic boxes and frames cost about \$420.

GRANTS: Maureen Cilano, Debbie Doucette, Burt Merriam, Sharon Seamans

1. Our board received \$3000 for 2026, which is allotted from the "celebrations (code A7550 in the budget document)" line of the town budget. The town board decides how to allot the money from the "celebrations" line, but they do not vote on it. This information is not recorded in the town's minutes.
2. Angela Marinucci has requested to be our new liaison.

ART START: Burt Merriam and Jenni Colwell

Date	Number of Kids	Project
June 8 (Bassett)	ca. 140	Clothespin buddies
July 5 (Williamsville)	ca. 25	Clothespin buddies
July 11 (Williamsville)	ca. 50	Rock painting
July 18 (Williamsville)	ca. 60	Trinket boxes, clothespin buddies, painted rocks
July 25 (Williamsville)	ca. 25	Wands, a few trinket boxes

LET'S DO LUNCH: Sharon Seamans and Mary Jo Kahley-Wolf

Our events for 2026 will focus on patriotic themes to help celebrate the 250th Anniversary of America.

Date	Speaker	Topic	Attendance
April 17	Carol Ann Harlos	Master Gardener -- Herbs	21
May 15	Fran Davis & Annie Gross	Gold Star and Blue Star Mothers	20
June 19	Alan Nowicki	Roycroft Stories and History	20
July 17	Daniel F. Korn	Civil War Stories	24
August 21	Jack Edson	Fabric Artist	25
September 18	Anne E. Conable	Buffalo Maritime Center	16
October	Sotto Voce	Opera	Canceled due to illness

TRAFFIC BOXES: Debbie Doucette and Maureen Cilano

The goal is to complete 12 traffic boxes during the summer of 2026. The theme will be America's 250th celebration. The twelve boxes selected for 2026 were shown on the Amherst town map. All 12 boxes are located on state roads, so the approval process is a bit more involved. The submission deadline will be March 8 with the winners being picked in April. The Rustoleum paints are stored at the Youth & Rec's heated garage.

Location (2025)	Artist(s)	Title/Theme	Completed
Sweethome & Skinnerville	Courtney Zach	Animals	Yes
Campbell & Dodge	Patty Ossa & Cindy Angrisano	Piano & Jazz	Yes
Sheridan & Millersport	Mike Maddigan	Birch Trees	Yes
Wehrle & Lamark	Alex LoDico	Postcard	Yes
Sheridan & Bailey	Margo Davis	Shirts	Yes
Niagara Falls Blvd. & Tonawanda Creek Rd.	Kim Gryckiewicz	Deer	Yes
Millersport & Crosspoint	David Thiel	Abstract	Yes
Sweethome & Maple	Makena St. George	Fruit	Yes

ACPPB Informational Tables: Jenni Colwell

Summary for 2025: Joy had sent an email to many places offering to add their information to our "informational bags." No one responded to her. A few people did drop flyers at Marty's office at the town hall.

Kite Day – September 27, 2025: Joy Testa-Cinquino

*Approximately 200 people attended the event. A lot of the attendees walked to Basset Park. As such, parking was not an issue for the day.

*There were 11 volunteers.

*The wind was light, so the big kites could not fly. Many smaller kites were flying during the event.

*Approximately 165 crafts were completed, which included coloring, wooden crafts, and kites.

*This event might work well to hold during the same time as Harvest Fest.

The kite event's total cost was \$717. This breaks down as follows: \$347 for advertising, \$370 for the Great Lakes Kitefliers Society, and \$90.86 for craft supplies.

PUBLICITY: Joy Testa-Cinquino

1. A summary of publicity items was given. Amherst Bee promoted Sotto Voce, which had to be recalled due to the illnesses of several performers.
2. Local new's stations were informed about our kite day, but none of them attended the event.
3. Could the liaison announce our upcoming events at the town board meeting?
4. Our events are for different demographics, so a one-size-fits-all advertising scheme does not work.
5. Spectrum news was also contacted.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Aluminum Sculptures--to readdress in 2026
2. Book Benches

The Town Board has approved moving forward with this project. Sponsors will be needed (Generations Foundation). Further investigation warranted to determine dimensions, competitive costs, if they meet fire code for interior use etc.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Provide each high school in Amherst with a 7' x 3' poster to paint. These can then be displayed someplace in Amherst. This location has not been determined.
2. Liberty Tree
3. Yellow Ribbon Decorations

ADJOURNMENT: Mary Jo Kahley-Wolf moved and Joy Testa-Cinquino seconded to adjourn at 8:53 PM.

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, January 13, at 7:00 PM at Town of Amherst Municipal Building in the conference room opposite the supervisor's office.