

Amesbury Cultural Council (ACC) Meeting
Amesbury Health Center
September 4, 2012, 7:00 pm

Members In Attendance: David Andrews, Leah Hill, Mary Hichborn, Rachel Kohn, Bob LaPlante, Carley Monell, and Steve Robinson

1. Minutes –Bob motioned to approve the July minutes. Carley seconded it. There was unanimous approval. Approval for June (for review) and August minutes (some changes required) are pending.

2. Treasurer's Report

2 vouchers paid:

\$750 – On Stage, Inc.

\$200 – Merrimac Valley Symphony

2 Studio Tour applications. \$70 paid.

3. Studio Tour

- Carley resent an email to past participants. There was concern that there were not enough applicants yet along with the fact that the deadline was moved up. It could be that Carley's email was seen as junk mail; she will resend a *regular* email.
- Update on Carley and Leah's meeting with Barbara Lorenc: Overall it was a good meeting. Barbara was very cooperative; she shared the 14 Cedar Street email list. One suggestion: set up a second ACC station at 14 Cedar Street to welcome visitors with Barbara.
- A suggestion was made to include mileage on the Studio Tour map to indicate "walk-ability" of a route.
- Volunteers. High school students could volunteer for Community Service. Steve will contact Community Service coordinator at AHS.
- Music. There was discussion about coordinating musicians. Could Whole Music help coordinate? Each act would have a 2-hour block. If a schedule is established and commitments are made, then the musicians could be included in the program. Bob suggested that the ACC could pay for a select artist. Senior art program.
- There was discussion about inclusion of high school students and seniors as artists. It was generally agreed that if AHS student artists participate as a group and also plan to sell their work, then they would pay one fee (senior rate of \$25) as a group. If they participate just exhibiting their work, the group fee would be waived. Student volunteers could oversee the kid's art table. Seniors from the Senior Center art program could also participate. Students and senior involvement could expand the Studio Tour audience.
- Passport program. There was concern about explaining about passport system would be too complicated. Rachel gave a simple explanation. There could be 2 collection points for passports. Someone needs to go around to collect passports.

The objective of the passport program is to get people to go to single sites. There was discussion of how many stamps would make someone eligible for the artist gift basket raffle (i.e. 10 stamps minimum with 15 sites). It was decided to wait to see how many sites will be on the Tour. There was also discussion about the artist gift basket (i.e. several items/one basket or several baskets?), whether to attach the Passport to the brochure or just insert it.

- Applications/PR
- Anyone can try to get gift certificates for the raffle. ACC members should document solicitations in Googledocs, (like last year) so there would not be annoying repeat requests. We should start with people and places that gave last year.
- Food. Talk to Maggie's Sundae's owner. Also, sell water. There was a question about the importance of providing food. Tour participants with brochure could possibly get 10% off for eating-places in Amesbury.
- We need confirmation about items. ???
- Look into: hanging a banner on the side of Fullers or using the A frames (used for Music in the Millyard). (Who owns them? The Chamber of Commerce.)
- Leah contacted DPW about the traffic signs for publicity. She was referred to the Amesbury Police.
- Hand out flyers/have posters for Studio Tour on Election Day.

4. Grant

- One grant application in already.
- PR in newspaper: Mary will send a reminder.
- There was a question from an applicant about 3-page limit in the grant application. Clarification is needed.

5. Newsletter

- For events calendar: Rails for Sails, Custom House, and Vintage Bazaar. Also add events from Library and Senior Center.

6. Other Business

- Next meeting is on October 4.
- Recruit new members.
- ACC responded to Team Haverhill's inquiry of participation in their "fashion tour"; ACC can try to encourage other organizations (i.e. Chamber of Commerce or Amesbury First) to get involved.

Bob motioned to adjourn meeting. Rachel seconded the motion. Unanimous approval. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven Robinson