



**Lancaster Cultural Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 20, 2018
Lancaster Community Center, 695 Main Street
Behind Prescott Building
Public Meeting Room**

Present: Marie Sullivan, Pat Doyle, Maureen Hardy, Denise Hurley, Michele Macdonald, Susan Sussman

Absent: Kathy Foell, Donna Rosander, Jenn Shea-Kettles

Call to Order: 4:00 PM

Welcome: Marie introduced new member Susan Sussman and welcomed all Council members.

Approval of Minutes 5/8/2018

Minutes of 5/8/2018 were edited to include Mark Grasso's official title, Selectman. Maureen moved to accept the minutes as edited. Pat seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Update on 2018 Grants

- 2018 Musical Series/Friends of Thayer Memorial Library- requested Final Report
- 83rd Regional Exhibit of Art & Craft ends September 2
- Celebration of Song/ John Root – set for September 10
- Express Yourself Songwriting

Marie read a request from Laura Ramsey to change the Songwriting session dates to October 1, 15 and 29 with each session lasting 2 hours. A motion was made by Michele to accept the modification, seconded by Maureen. Motion was unanimously approved.

- Museums to You - (\$750) a date has not been set for event
- Nashoba Symphonic Band: requested Final Report Form 5/2 and 8/10

Treasurer's Report

Maureen read the account statement from Town Finance Director, Cheryl Gariiepy: Account balance 6/30/18 (end of fiscal year): \$779.77. \$29.77 is accumulated interest and \$750 has been granted to Alix Turner for Museums To You Project.

2018 Community Input Survey Report (entire report is included at the end of these minutes and posted on the Lancaster Cultural Council website) Denise presented the information submitted from 57 surveys. The Council discussed the survey and the community's opinions about Cultural Council projects. Marie thanked Denise for her work on collecting and formatting the data.

Review Council Funding Priorities discussed at last meeting

The Council reviewed first draft priorities that were introduced at last meeting, deleted any that were not aligned with the community input and edited others as needed.

Define Council Funding Priorities for 2019 incorporating Survey Results

The Council defined Lancaster's Local Priorities incorporating input from the community survey. The following priorities will be posted on the Massachusetts Cultural Council website and the Lancaster Cultural Council website to guide grant applicants:

Lancaster Cultural Council Priorities

The Lancaster Cultural Council's purpose is to promote and support local and regional Arts, Humanities, and Interpretive Sciences. The Council gathers input from the community every three years and develops funding priorities based on that feedback. Programs and activities that interest and benefit all ages are considered. Past funding has supported music events, plays, and enrichment programs both in our schools and in the community.

Priority is given to:

- Applications from local artists, organizations or groups
- Projects that demonstrate detailed planning including venue confirmation, date(s)
- Projects with complete and detailed budgets
- Projects or events that are free and / or low cost (for attendance or participation)
- Applications that show a match of cash or in kind services
- Proposals that address the diverse cultural needs of our community or support diverse forms of cultural activities
- Collaborative projects between cultural and community groups

In addition:

- A project that has received funding in the past from Lancaster Cultural Council must be updated or in some way altered such as incorporating new content, or relevant /current technology.

Publicizing Cultural Council Grants for 2019

The Council agreed on the following statement to be publicized in the Item, Town Newsletter, Council On Aging Newsletter, and in a Cable Television Bulletin. Hard copies will also be available at the Library, Town Hall and Community Center.

Lancaster Cultural Council is currently accepting online grant proposals from organizations, schools and individuals to support artistic projects, cultural events and activities in Lancaster and surrounding communities. To submit a grant proposal, visit www.mass-culture.org. Application deadline is Monday, October 15, 2018.

Communications – no additional communications

Denise Hurley requested that a local Initiative Arts Festival be placed on next meeting's agenda.

Adjournment: Motion made by Michele, seconded by Susan. Unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM

Lancaster Cultural Council Survey Results 7/15/2018

Publicity: Town Newsletter, Council On Aging Newsletter, Town Website,
Published in Local newspaper (ITEM)

Electronic version- Lancaster Cultural Council (town) website
Hard copies were available at the Selectmen's Office, Town Hall

Total surveys: 57

| | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Are you aware of existing cultural programs in Lancaster | Yes 33 | No 23 | Blank 1 |
| What arts/or cultural programs or services would you like to see in Lancaster | See below | | |
| Were you aware that artists, schools and community groups may apply for grants from the Lancaster Cultural Council? | 33 | 21 | |
| | | | |
| What should be the most important priorities for Lancaster Cultural Council Funding for next year? | | | |
| | Priority 1 | Priority 2 | Priority 3 |
| Projects led by local artists | 19 | 5 | 4 |
| Arts in the School | 21 | 4 | 5 |
| Youth Arts programs outside of school | 9 | 13 | 4 |
| Public events like concerts, fest | 23 | 15 | 6 |
| Environmental education projects | 11 | 10 | 7 |
| Support for community arts and cultural organizations | 15 | 13 | 9 |
| Cultural events for nursing homes and/or seniors | 18 | 8 | 10 |

What arts and/or cultural programs or services would you like to see in Lancaster?

Free or low cost programs for seniors and children

Music dance and lectures

I would like to see more support for musical events and a community day sponsored by the Lancaster Cultural Council. I would also like to see different events showcasing artists in every medium.

Quilt making

Local history programs brought into the Elementary Schools

Lancaster history programs

I enjoy the High School Musical every year and the High School Choir concerts

Historical exhibits, classes for the community, writing program, book/film discussions groups

Art showcases, student opportunities for drama and writing

Concerts held on the Town Common

More diversity in offerings and presenters/performers

Arts and drama programs throughout the district

I love the fact that you support the arts for the students in the schools. The budget for this district does not allow all the programs to exist. Without your help it would be difficult to do all the music and theater programs at the schools. These programs help kids to try new things and develop their talents. They also provide a cultural event for the community to attend. I cannot express my gratitude to you in supporting these events for the kids in the community.

History, music, gardening, art

Children's programming

Series of course offerings (calligraphy, drawing, needle craft, etc)

Cooking classes, gardening

Local artists, musicians

A strong investment in the arts program within the schools. They are woefully underfunded

Art shows, theatre, performances, dance, craft fairs

Happy to learn about anyone's culture. It's interesting

Concerts, writers describing books, game night

More history, tours around Lancaster

nature project

a mix - eclectic

plays at Town Hall

live artist studios in the Old Mary Rolandson School

dancing horses w/rider performances at Thayer Memorial Park

Movies (old movies and artsy movies) upstairs in Community Center.

Other ideas or suggestions

- Reprinting of Lancaster Historical Society Books used by 2nd & 3rd graders and promotes history of town

- Local Lancaster History programs

- We appreciate the support given to the schools. My children have benefited by the programs in MRS, LBMS & NRHS. We love attending all the high school shows and choral programs

- My own children love to be in plays and concerts at school. I still go back to see the programs that are held at the high school.

- High school drama continues to bring all three communities together and provide opportunities for Lancaster's students to gain confidence and continue to grow their acting skills, both of which give them real world skills in a creative environment

- My husband and I enjoy the HS musical and the fall play every year and the HS Choir concerts at Nashoba Regional HS. I am an active parent volunteer and appreciate the funding provided by the Lancaster Cultural Council. Thank you!
- Art shows of community sing songs.
- I thoroughly have enjoyed all the drama productions at Nashoba Regional HS which is supported by your grant
- keep supporting the library and its programs!
- Thanks for the great work you are doing committee!
- the more the better
- great dedication and programming
- would love to learn more
- more trips for seniors at no cost
- more funding available for libraries
- I miss the cultural events from the college. They offered piano lessons, for seniors one summer, \$10 for whole summer
- more programming for seniors
- presentation for education for voters/ candidates
- would like low cost or no cost programs for seniors
- have a rug hooking artist come in for a class and televise it
- Televised craft artists will serve all ages. If concerts, festivals and events were televised, you can stay home and watch them on Television. I like concerts on the 4th of July
- support for trips to museums and cultural events
- A program up at the town beach- synchronized swimming and concert

Suggestions:

- doing the survey and talking to people and finding out about cultural council is helpful and beneficial
- Glad you are doing this. Everyone needs to feel involved in their community. More people should volunteer in the local schools.
- more craft programming that is televised so people can be at home and be able to know how to do it
- support trips to museums and cultural events
- The community garden program was great. How do we find out how to apply for the grants??? What might a grant be or look like- example???