

Cummington Cultural District Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 13, 2025 from 3-4pm

Held as Zoom Meeting

Attendees: John Bye, Ilse Godfrey, E. Maude Haak-Frendscho, Ms. Laura Sheridan

Begin 3:04pm

Approval of January Minutes:

January 2024 meeting minutes were approved for content unanimously and will be emailed to Town Clerk and Webmaster for recording and posting to the town website after approval at following meeting.

Public Speak:

Laura Sheridan: Ron Woodland, a beloved Cummington community member, had a memorial service, well done and well attended, great that it was on the town sign.

State legislators working with Hilltown CDC on One Stop for the School Building

Programming & Partnerships:

Main Street Art Activations:

- The form looks good, the design for the program sub-brand works
- Need to start collecting metrics from supported projects like attendance, photo documentation, etc - perhaps use something like the LCC grant report
- Add IG handle to the website and to the evergreen materials like letterhead and to the email signature
- In the Project Proposal Section, add more prompts for applicants to describe how their project fulfills the goals of the program, beyond the check box
- Ilse shared the RFP for review by committee members - respond to materials and add to the website and outreach once reviewed and confirmed

Spring Pancake Breakfast:

- Saturday, April 20 - Talking with Alice about catering
- Music this year? Burnsey has played for the last couple years. John will think on it and reach out to him

HOST 2024:

- Leslie and Maude met with Dave from Hilltown CDC, has previously supported with staffing and technical support, does not have that same level of support this year
- Should communicate with the HOST organizers, set a meeting and discuss that we're making our plans for the year, want to know what their intentions are, especially for Cummington. If they are concrete, can plan around and with
- If HOST is clear and has their plans and can fund more, Hilltown CDC can help support

- If no HOST tour or plan, we should think about something similar that is a focus on Cummington artists, like a tour or open house, in either 2024 or 2025 - it's special, and we've participated, but we can spin off if they shift
- Dave agrees that while we should continue to think and collaborate regionally on arts and culture, focus our activities locally in Cummington
- Next Step: Maude reach out to HOST organizers to start getting details, if Cummington will be the hub or not, if dates are secured, etc. And if not, start thinking about potential local alternative program we can organize for 2025 - Kathy Ford, who is in our contacts

Farmers Market:

- Hilltown CDC might be interested in shifting from their Worthington Store to the school building, if that might be in alignment. An idea that was put out.

Bryant Homestead:

- Also think about Burnsey for one of the walks for a nature walk
- Project Art LCC grant funding for an artist, turn portion of funding over to support artist fees for talks, co-sponsored by Project Art, for instance - Project Art doesn't have a public in the same kind of way at the CCD does and can - will need to figure out next steps of a proposal and then go back to the LCC and figure out the process for shifting the application project
- Sat, July 13 thru Sat, Aug 24 - have dates for the Hilltown 6 on Jul 27 and the Hilltown History Trail Aug 3 - which leaves 5 remaining Saturdays
- Did not get invited to Wolf Kahn Foundation app - Maude to send a follow up, ask to advise, invite them to the grant if we do move forward
- What alternative opportunities do we have for funding? We could pare this back, and prioritize fees for artists. We could allocate other CCD funding, especially if it's for local Cummington artist fees. We could shift some of the explorations onto Main St, and seek MOOR grant for shuttle from CCD up to the Trustees
- Next Step: call Carolyn and ask MCC about if we can use CDI grant for Bryant program
- Next Step: Leslie and Maude reach out to LCC about how to shift supported program

Grants:

- Start looking at Expanding MA Stories from Mass Humanities for Bryant in 2025, May 31
- Similar timeline would be the NEH Public Impact programs June 12 for 2025
- Not for Bryant, MCC Festivals and Projects is May 23, could be for spring 2025 featuring Cummington artists as a festival - shine a light on Cummington's creatives
- Maude will reach out to Select Board about application to these grants

CCD Committee Member Recruitment

- At the Pancake Breakfast - talk up the committees! We've gotten a lot of support, now is a great time to participate in volunteer committees - need to have takeaways for attendees, beyond sign up sheets
- Original Pancake Breakfast raffle for a basket with artwork, maple syrup, gift certificates
- Next meeting: think about engagement for folks during the Pancake Breakfast

- Also at Pancake Breakfast: try to gather crowd-sourced list of artists in Cummington, cultural, beyond visual arts to include music and literature, etc. Could be added to the website as links, could even gather through a jotform like the Reflections call.

Website and Comms

- Website is getting updated, added a new section for the other organizations, recurring events, places in Cummington in Visit Cummington
- Have a number of calendar events - these are getting updated regularly - add in the Cummington Fair events as they get posted, there are a lot.
- Programs page needs to be updated. Put in our recurring events, and then place the materials for the MSAA for this year, etc

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 12 from 3-4pm – virtual meeting, link will be shared in agenda