



# Lenox Cultural District

## Steering Committee Minutes

Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 9:30am via Zoom

**Attendees:** Stephanie Bergman, Mass Audubon; Nynke Dorhout, The Mount; Beth Tracy Gamble, LCC; Amy Lafave, Lenox Library; Kristen Moriarty, Shakespeare & Company; Deirdre McKenna, Lenox Chamber of Commerce; Marybeth Mitts, Lenox Select Board; Natalie Neubert, Berkshire Music School; Arlene Schiff, LCC; Cassandra Sohn, Sohn Fine Art; Lynda Strauch, Wit Gallery; Hilary Field Respass, BUTI; Laura Brennan, BRPC

**Absent:** Derrick Holt, Color of the Berkshires; Eileen Mahoney, Trinity Lenox; Gwen Miller, Town of Lenox; Jenn Nacht, Lenox Chamber of Commerce

The meeting was called to order at 9:38am.

**Approval of Minutes February 11<sup>th</sup>** – Beth G. made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Marybeth M. seconded. Minutes were approved as presented through a roll call vote, with Cassandra S., Natalie N., and Deirdre M. abstaining.

Attendees briefly introduced themselves to one another. The group welcomed Nynke Dorhout, the new representative from The Mount. Nynke is the librarian at the Mount and lives in Lenox, with children in Lenox High School.

**Approval of new Steering Committee members** – Marybeth M. made a motion to accept the slate of new members which includes Stephanie Bergman, Arlene Schiff, and Linda Strauch. Hilary R. seconded the motion, and the slate was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

**Stakeholder Meeting in June 2021** – Laura B. asked for preferences for a potential date and time for the next stakeholder session. Discussion resulted in the selection of June 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am.

### **Programmatic/Promotional Planning Updates –**

- **Lenox Loves Music Series** – we have received \$1,000 (via an application by Berkshire Music School) to help support this program from the Lenox Cultural Council. Subcommittee has begun meeting. Calls for artists will begin in early April, with rolling submissions. Dates for performances in the early portion of 2021 will include May 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> (skipping June 6<sup>th</sup> due to Art Walk). Performances will begin at 3pm each Sunday. Laura B. asked Natalie and Deirdre to coordinate with Jenn N. on plans to issue a press release about this series, hopefully in late April.
- **Art Walks** – Art Walk is scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>, still utilizing a separated “village” model to help disperse attendees. The number of vendors may increase from approximately 30 to possibly 50.
- **Scavenger Hunts** – Marybeth M. has been meeting with Kristin M., Amy L., and Michelle Dempsey of the Mount, looking at additional smartphone apps for the group to consider. Hoping to have seasonal themes for scavenger hunts, focusing on natural environment for the Spring. Summer will be a cultural focus. Stephanie shared that Mass Audubon has many existing scavenger hunts which could be used to save on work.
- **Lamppost Banners** – No updates at this time, we will discuss this at the next meeting when Jenn N. is in attendance.

**Berkshire County Cultural District Collaborations** – Laura B. and Cassandra S. attended a convening of cultural districts and Cassandra provided a synopsis. We are moving ahead with the county-wide Art Week in late September. All districts should encourage their local stakeholders to identify events between September 18<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. One common theme will be Open Studios, either in person or virtually. We will be asking 1Berkshire to again host a landing page providing a digest of all Art Week events throughout the county. The group would also like to work with a graphic designer to develop graphics to use whenever we are collaborating. It is possible that Art Week could start even earlier, with the kick-off occurring at Third Thursday in Pittsfield, which could provide a good promotional opportunity. The next convening will be held on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in LCD Programming** – discussion following the recent listening session with Michael Bobbitt, new executive director of MCC. The session included information on some self-guided tools to improve in this area. Deirdre will share specific information and links to these resources.

**Governance Structure** – At previous meetings, the group has conducted ongoing discussion of the potential to evolve our governance structure. In February, those in attendance indicated that they would like to maintain the current structure. Beth asked that we keep this topic on in order to help new members get acclimated.

**Misc.** – Cassandra asked that a discussion of signage placement be added to the next agenda.

**Next Regular Meeting Date:** Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am.

The meeting adjourned at 10:28am.