

Warner Free Lecture Trustees Meeting

In-person at the Council on Aging Senior Center, 16 Lancaster County Rd., Harvard

Minutes for August 29, 2023

Trustees Present: Jeff Boudreau, Michael Kilian (Chair), Nancy Meyer, Steve Peisch, Billy Salter, Sheila Simollardes. **Guests:** Alison Thornton and Ellen Sachs Leicher.

Chair called the meeting to order at 6:18 PM.

1. Celebrate the “retirement” of Alison Thornton. We toasted Alison and gave her a framed certificate and an orchid to thank her for three years of service as a WFL Trustee and Chair.

Alison left the meeting.

2. Review and approve minutes from July 25, 2023.

VOTE: Jeff moved, Steve seconded approval of the minutes from July 25, 2023, with several changes/corrections, all in favor.

VOTE: Jeff moved that we add a discussion of grants to the current agenda, all in favor.

3. Grant discussion. The application window for Mass Cultural Council Local Cultural Council (LCC) grants is September 1-October 17, 2023. The application deadline for the larger Mass Cultural Council grants is in early spring. The process for accepting a grant is that it goes through the Town’s finance director, and he will accrue it towards our account. We can accept unsolicited donations; we cannot request donations or have a “tip jar” at events. Individuals can apply for a grant and donate those funds.

Steve proposed applying for an LCC grant to augment the Suzanne Buell gospel presentation with an additional vocalist. This would be in addition to the piano and guitar that are already planned.

The grants are submitted online, and Jeff will create an account. We need to include the name of the presentation, date, and requested dollar amount, which will likely be \$200-250. A final draft should be submitted by October 17. Jeff and Steve will draft the grant and circulate to Trustees it by the first week in October for approval at our next meeting.

VOTE: Mike moved, Sheila seconded that the Warner Free Lecture Trust apply for a grant to fund an honorarium for a third musician at the Suzanne Buell presentation, all in favor.

Special guest Ellen Sachs Leicher arrived during the previous discussion.

4. Coordinating with other town groups. Ellen, who is Chair of the Harvard Climate Initiative Committee (HCIC) and a member of the Arm in Arm Harvard Steering Committee, gave a brief overview of the work both committees. HCIC is working to make Harvard more

resilient and sustainable in the face of climate change challenges. Arm in Arm Harvard's mission is to promote and uphold a safe, inclusive social climate that values diversity and fosters respect for one another. Ellen talked about some of the upcoming programs HCIC and Arm in Arm groups are hosting.

We discussed opportunities to coordinate and collaborate with other groups. In addition to sharing costs and helping to promote one another's events, this could help avoid potential conflicts with holidays and holy days (e.g., this year we inadvertently scheduled a WFL presentation on the night before Rosh Hashanah).

The HCIC newsletter goes to 400 people. They have a grant for a town-wide mailings and the cost is approximately \$1,200 for printing and mailing.

For the upcoming WFL season, we identified the following opportunities for joint sponsorship and/or co-marketing:

- Bob Mumgaard, The Future of Fusion, 9/15/2023. Advertise to the Bromfield Science Club and Science Department Chair Dr. Kristen Vanderveen (Steve).
- Roxana Trabulsi, Escape from Yemen, 10/27/2023. Collaborate with Arm in Arm Harvard. (Mike will be in touch with Ellen.)
- John Hanson Mitchell, Gardening in the Age of Climate Change, 1/12/2024. Collaborate with HCIC and advertise to Harvard Garden Club (Billy).

Ellen spoke about the annual Harvard Community Conference (HC²) that involves Bromfield students and is open to the town. This year's theme is "Climate." The presentation will be held in Volunteers Hall on a Saturday in late February/early March. We agreed to help publicize the event through our mailing lists and media. The benefit for us is increased recognition by high school students and parents.

In the 2024-25 season, if we can pool resources with another town Committee or organization, that could allow us to attract high caliber speakers. Mike suggested Bill McKibben, who lives in VT. Other possible speakers: Bill Nye, Harvey Leonard. Try to finalize schedule by February 2024.

Consider a collaboration next year with Arm and Arm on a theme or topic. Possibly invite Afghan families living in town to talk about their experiences.

Ellen left the meeting.

5. Start preparing for next season. At our next meeting we will brainstorm ideas for next season. Mike circulated a list of speaker ideas that were generated in the past. Members are asked to start accumulating names and pitch ideas at our next meeting. Consider doing five WFL presentations and one in collaboration with another group.
6. Next meeting. Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 6:15 PM via ZOOM.

7. Publicity. A 3x6" *The Harvard Press* ad costs \$90.00. Mike will submit our card and the *Press* will create the ad.

Jeff and Steve will talk about how to transfer administration of the WFL Facebook page.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Meyer, Secretary.