

Winchendon Cultural Council

Official Meeting Minutes

Approved on 02/03/2021

Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020

Time: 7:00 pm Location: Winchendon, via zoom Conference call

Attendees: Jill Sacket (Chair/Treasurer), Andrew Arceci, Tina Santos, Linda Hofhaug, Greg Vine, Deanne Keddy, Nicole Elias, and Jay McCrohon.

Absent: Miranda Jennings

Meeting was called to order at 7:09pm. Greg Vine asked if recording of the zoom meetings were required and they are not.

Introductions – We all introduced ourselves to our two (2) new Cultural Council members, Deanne Keddy and Nicole Elias.

Old Business

- Review/Approve November 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes – Tina and Jill had made small edits. The Cultural Council was not able to meet in March and Miranda is not present at tonight's meeting and was not able to send final document. We will postpone review and approval to the next meeting.
- New Member Recruitment Update – Nicole Elias has new recruitment interest:
 - Elementary art teacher
 - Vice President of the Murdock High School Student Council

Cultural Council member requirements – need to be a resident of Massachusetts, have ties with the town; don't necessarily need to live in the town.

- Treasurer Role – Jill is currently occupying both Chair and Treasurer position and will need hand the roles to someone else or can spread the roles throughout the group. Jill had spoke to Coral Grout and she would be interested in coming back as Treasurer, however her now that she holds an elected position in Town she is not eligible to serve on the Council. Please read the Overview document and can assign at next meeting. Linda Hofhaug had expressed interest in the position and will look at the Overview document after tonight's meeting.

New Business

- Revised Schedule for 2021 Grant Cycle – The usual grant cycle is September 1 – October 15; however due to Covid the grant cycle has been pushed out a month. The revised grant cycle for 2021 is now October 1 – November 15.
- Review of Requested Changes to 2020 Funded Programs – Due to Covid, most of the 2020 events did not occur. Beals Memorial Library did however have their movie event. We have received extension requests from all grantees. They have a year from the awarded date to have the event. Dan Kiroauc reached out to Jill and asked for a mitigation request for an event that was to be scheduled for the senior center. Council can grant mitigation requests in hardship situations if the event cannot be

rescheduled or moved to another date. Greg Vine made a motion that the Cultural Council grant all extensions to everyone we previously funded until September 30, 2021. The Council recognizes situations and funding may change due to the Covid pandemic and must contact council by September 30, 2021 with any changes. Andrew second-ed. Unanimous roll call vote.

- Toy Town Partnership "Toy Art" Installation Project – Toy Town Partnership had received a Robinson-Broadhurst grant to bring a "life-size" toy bicycle to the bike path. Estimated cost would be about \$10,000. Tina asked who would be maintaining the bicycle going forward and mentioned although it is a great idea given we are a toy town, that significant amount of money could have been used for many other priorities that we currently have in town, such as our schools, our fire station that needs to be renovated, etc. Greg also questioned the maintenance of the project.
- Council Priorities for 2021- Council can put aside 15% of the budget for Council-funded projects. Discussion of bringing the community and schools together with art. Jill mentioned putting student artwork in the windows of the empty buildings downtowns, perhaps during Fall Festival. Nicole and Miranda will be planning on a mural project together however it was stalled due to the Covid epidemic. Nicole, being the Murdock High School Art teacher, can help engage the kids and have them produce art pieces, will need materials. Andrew is very supportive of this idea. Jay mentioned to showcase our beautiful town surrounding by incorporating art and conservation. Greg mentioned incorporating art and ecology. Further discussion is warranted on this topic and it will be continued at a future meeting.
- Set Next Meeting Date - Budget has not been set by then state yet so we are not in a position to set the next meeting date at this time.

Adjournment at 8:37pm