

Walpole Cultural Council

Meeting Minutes for 01/25/2021

Meeting date: January 25, 2021

Time: start 7:00PM; end 9:00PM

Place: Zoom

Present: Mimi Connell, Mary Cullinane, Chris Weylman, Kari Denitzio, Sarah McCracken, Clodagh Drummeay, Lynne Chiodo

Matters Discussed:

- Treasurer's Report
- Open Positions
- Art Work Display Opportunity
- Student Letter
- Grant Applications
- Open Forum

Treasurer's Report- Account balance \$1,108.12. An amount of \$100 is held for MA Audubon and another \$100 is held for Sharon Choral group, leaving \$908.12 in the account prior to the current grant cycle deposit. This deposit is in the amount of \$9,200. Of this, 5% (\$460) is held for administrative costs. Therefore, a total of \$9,648.12 is available to grant in the current grant cycle under review.

Open Board Positions- The Council continues to seek a volunteer to assume the role of Treasurer. Currently, the Council Chairperson is filling both positions. The Council also discussed that in 2022 the positions of Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary will all become vacant due to members rolling off the Council. Therefore, a plea was made to current Council members to step into the role of Treasurer and also a discussion centered around ways to recruit new Council members, in addition to fulfilling these key roles. New members must be recruited in order to ensure adequate membership for voting purposes. The Council considered ways to publicize that it is seeking new members. Some of these included putting an article in the next newsletter and in local news media outlets and on social media sites. A press release timed for after the current grant cycle awards was deemed appropriate to announce the recipients and announce the search for new members. Members also considered arranging for an interview of one or two Council members and possibly a grant recipient or two on Walpole cable media.

All members agreed that in seeking new members it would be ideal to diversify board membership, especially in light of the Council's most recent survey, which found a community interest in increased diversity and inclusion.

Art Work Display- The Council connected Ellen Little, representing artists displaced from the Winsmith Mill, and JoAnn Russo, apartment manager at the apartments at the corner of West

and Union Streets. As a result of this connection, there is now art work on display in the first floor lobby of that apartment building. Other artists were also contacted but have not yet responded. Mimi took photos and posted them on the Council's social media.

Student Letter- Mimi read into the meeting a letter she received from a middle school student at Bird Middle School expressing her ideas on improvement to Walpole theater space and the need for more diverse cultural programs in Walpole. Mimi will respond to this student.

Grant Applications- All grant applications were read and reviewed individually by members prior to tonight's meeting. During the meeting, each Council member shared with the entire committee its opinion on whether the member was inclined to vote to fund, not to fund, or maybe would fund each particular application. Members were allotted a great deal of time to flesh out their opinions and healthy discussion on each grant application ensued. By the end of the meeting, the Council members were able to take a preliminary vote on funding. This vote is tentative and inconclusive, as there were several grant applications that fell into the "maybe" category. Also, once it is concluded that a grant application fits within in the Council's guidelines and priorities, the issue of how much funding then needs to be addressed. There were a few grants that warranted a follow-up discussion in order to reach a decision on whether or not, and how much, to fund. Therefore, the night was adjourned for follow-up with these grant applicants and for further individual review of all grant applications by members.

The next meeting is scheduled for 02/01/2021.

Minutes approved February 22, 2021.