

Walpole Cultural Council

Meeting Minutes for 12/07/2020

Meeting date: December 7, 2020

Time: start 7:00PM; end 8:30PM

Place: Zoom

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

Matters Discussed:

- Treasurer's Report
- Review of Grant Cycle Dates
- Art Work Display Opportunity
- Electric Box Covers (Proposal by Rebecca Joyce)
- Walpole Writes
- Open Forum

Summary of Matters Discussed:

Art Work Display- Ellen Little, board member at Norwood Art Association, organizer of art at Winsmith Mill Art Gallery, and former Framingham art teacher joined the Council's meeting. Ellen is also a member of the Foxboro Art Association. Ellen spoke to the Council on behalf of the many artists that typically display at Winsmith Mills at the request of the Council. Joanne Russo, manager at the new apartments at 95 West Street reached out to the Council to discuss the possibility of displaying artists' work in the first floor lobby retail space at the apartment complex. The Council members and Ellen discussed this request and all agreed that it is a worthwhile opportunity. Mimi will facilitate a meeting with Ellen and Joanne to work on the details.

Treasurer's Report- Account balance \$1,208.12. In November, \$100 was paid out to a grantee. The Council decided to hold back 5% of funds for upcoming administrative costs.

Review of Grant Cycle Dates- Grant application deadline is December 14, 2020. Section 1 of Annual Report is due December 14, 2020. Section 2 is due January 15, 2021. Grant application voting meetings to be held in January and February. Grant decision notifications to be completed by the end of March.

The Council members discussed the option of holding the voting meetings in-person in the library, but it was decided that at this point the safest option is to continue conducting Council meetings by Zoom. Council members will keep a watch for when the panel book becomes available and will begin reviewing applications individually in anticipation of upcoming voting meetings.

Electric Box Covers- Chris updated the Council on her conversation with Rebecca Joyce. The Keep Walpole Beautiful committee is still interested in covering the electrical boxes in the center of town. Chris reminded the members on previous research in to this possibility, including the use of a cover made of a sticky wrap that typically costs \$600-\$800 per box. Mary reminded the members of her previous conversations with the police and that there is no safety issue with covering the boxes. It was suggested that the Council check with the Town Administrator to learn who actually owns the boxes, because they could be the property of Eversource. Ultimately, the Council decided not to participate in these box covers, due to cost.

Walpole Writes – The Council unanimously decided to move forward with Walpole Writes. It discussed the timeline, in consideration of the revised grant cycle timeline. Kari will draft the initial plans. The Council decided to keep the instructions broad to let writers choose their topics. The Council discussed the application form and the short introduction that can be sent to the news outlets and put on social media. The Council briefly discussed but did not decide on what prizes to offer or how to fund prizes or what other recognitions to give writers and contest winners. The Council members agreed that gift cards to local businesses might be the best option. Members discussed whether it would be possible to alter the A-frame in a way to advertise and inform about Walpole Writes. Mimi will check with Timothea Pham on whether or not something could be printed in the MCC newsletter on this contest.

Next meeting initially scheduled for January 11, 2021 but rescheduled to January 25, 2021 because of revised timing for panel book distribution.

Minutes approved February 22, 2021