

Cultural Council Minutes December 8, 2020

Members in Attendance: Joseph Bisbee, Jr, Daniel Callahan, James Neiland, Mary Pap, Marie Stoeckel, and Hong Vuong

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Joe welcomed a guest to the meeting: Mr. James Malary who is the Chief Financial Officer for the Town of Weymouth.

Approval of Minutes

Joe made a motion to approve the November 10, 2020 minutes. Dan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business

Joe gave an update on the MCC's response to COVID-19 impacts. No new updates besides the grant application deadline being extended to December 14, 2020. Once the grant cycle closes, the panel books will be made available.

Joe stated that Section 1 of our Annual Report was filed. Section 2 of the Annual Report cannot be completed until our allocation amount is granted, which will be sometime in early January 2021.

Dan gave an update on his meeting with Kerry Knapp from the Mayor's office regarding the grants that were approved in 2020 and the financial implications that COVID-19 has had on grantees and their programming. He would be reaching out to Weymouth's accountant as well to discuss requested reimbursements from grantees.

New Business

Mary discussed the results of the Community Input Survey that was available online of the Town of Weymouth's website. The Weymouth Public Library also included a link to the survey in their Library Newsletter. Marie would like to ensure the break-down of the survey results given to the council by the Town are more user-friendly. Mary would speak with the Town to discuss the format before next year's survey goes out online. There was disappointment in the number of respondents this year compared to previous years, which was most likely due to COVID-19. The majority of those who responded did state that they would be open to virtual programming of cultural events/art classes, etc., as well as in person if the event met COVID-19 safety guidelines.

Marie and Dan then asked James Malary a few questions regarding working with the town accountant to obtain a current spreadsheet of the requested funds that have been paid out to grantees thus far. Also, discussed how to most effectively view up-to-date information going forward due to challenges presented by the COVID-19 impacts on local cultural councils.

The council thanked Mr. Malary for attending our meeting and for his ongoing assistance to the council.

Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. Dan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Cultural Council will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, January 12, 2020 at 7:00p.m.

Approved by: Mary A. Pap Joseph Bisbee

Dated: 03/02/21