

Minutes
Mendon Cultural Council
December 3, 2013

Attendees: Cynthia Donatelli, Martha Grady, Monika Schmid, Marcy Singer

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
- A motion was made by Cynthia to accept the October 29, 2013 minutes, seconded by Martha.
- A Treasurer's Report was unavailable. An update on account activity will be requested from the town accountant at year's end, as several 2013 grantees have yet to request reimbursement.
- 2013 grantee John Porcino inquired in late November about a grant extension as he was having difficulty finding an audience for his performance. As of meeting time, he is tentatively scheduled to perform at Clough School on December 20, 2013. Council felt that future applicants should be required to specify a date, location and sponsor when they submit their proposal for funding.
- 2014 grant disapproval letters were sent November 15, 2013 with a 15 day period in which to request reconsideration. 2014 grant applicant Ellis O'Donnell, via email correspondence, disagreed with the Council's decision to not fund her proposal for her musical performance at the Thimble Pleasures Quilt Show. Since Thimble Pleasures is a non-profit, she argued that the ticket price is considered a donation. However, her grant proposal clearly stated "Entry fee for quilt show is \$5" and the Council's decision was based on the event not being free and available to all the public. Ms. O'Donnell did not, however, submit a written reconsideration request to the Council with a copy to the Massachusetts Cultural Council so no formal action or vote was required and disapproval of her application stands.
- After discussing the 2014 proposals, particularly those disapproved, Council agreed that a workshop on grant-writing would benefit potential applicants and should be planned for the spring. Other items for future discussion are: fund-raising strategies; a review of the Mendon Cultural Council guidelines that appear on the state website; better communication with grant recipients; and outreach to the schools.
- The Council will meet on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Taft Library.
- Motion to adjourn was made by Cynthia, seconded by Monika. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.