

Mendon Cultural Council
Tuesday, January 14, 2014

MINUTES

Present:

- ✓ Marcy Singer: Chair
- ✓ Gloria Profetto, Treasurer
- ✓ Cynthia Donatelli
- ✓ Joyce Firth
- ✓ Martha Grady
- ✓ Monika Schmidt
- Maggie Chianese-Secretary (resigned)

I. Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00.

II. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the last meeting.

A. The motion was seconded by Martha Grady.

III. Treasurer's Report:

A. All 2013 grant recipients applied for reimbursement prior to year's end except the Blackstone Valley Heritage Homecoming Inc.

1. After multiple attempts to encourage the recipient to apply for reimbursement and the time limit for reimbursement exceeded, this grant recipient is no longer eligible for 2013 reimbursement.

B. The encumbered funds (\$500) will remain in the Council account and will be available for use in 2015.

IV. Maggie Chianese, who had been holding the Secretary position, has resigned.

A. The chair accepted nominations to fill this position.

B. Joyce Firth was nominated and seconded.

C. The Council accepted Joyce Firth to fill the Secretary position.

V. Referring to the agenda items, the Council discussed Council Priorities for 2014.

A. Discussion focused on updating the priorities and guidelines as stated on the Massachusetts Cultural Council/Mendon website.

1. These publically-viewed guidelines direct the Council when awarding grants and require review.

2. After preliminary discussion, and before final vote, the re-write tentatively reads:

[Depending upon the applications received, the Mendon Cultural Council will strive to grant awards that:

- balance educational, cultural, and the visual and performing arts.
- serve a variety of the population and provide the greatest benefit for the Mendon community and its residents.
- fund organizations and/or individuals that perform locally or within a reasonable travel time for Mendon residents.
- fund local performers, organizations, or groups.
- encourage new and unique artistic/cultural experiences.]

- B. The Council will review, revise as necessary and vote on a final draft of these guidelines/priorities at the next meeting.
- VI. Marcy Singer, Chair, handed out the Massachusetts General Law Statute, Regulations and Codes for Local Cultural Council fundraising and expense reimbursement issues were discussed.
 - 1. Receipts for expenses incurred by a member must be submitted to the Council for a vote.
 - 2. After Council vote, approved receipts must be submitted to the Town Accountant.
 - 3. Reimbursement is made if there is adequate funding.
- A. After review of the regulations on fundraising, it was determined that the Council can accept donations, and those donations are tax deductible.
 - 1. Questions were asked as to how other town Cultural Councils were able to sponsor raffles, sales and other fundraising events.
 - 2. **Marcy Singer and Joyce Firth volunteered to look further into this by contacting other local Councils.*
- B. It is believed that the MCC logo must appear on LCC sponsored events.
 - 1. Marcy Singer will verify this for the council.
- VII Cultural Council Annual Report
 - A. Members were reminded to review the 2013 Cultural Council Annual Report which will be included in the Town of Mendon Annual Report.
- VIII Council members and their Term
 - A. It was believed that 2014 marks the end of term for three Council members: Cynthia Donatelli, Martha Grady and Marcy Singer.
 - 1. Cynthia and Martha believe that this is their second term which means that they will be forced to step down from the Council.
 - 2. ** Marcy, Cynthia and Martha will investigate this further and explore the options, and will report their findings to the Council at the next meeting.*
- IX. **Next meeting date Tuesday, February 18, 2014 (snow date 2/15) 7:00pm.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Firth, Secretary

