

Mendon Cultural Council  
February 25, 2014

MINUTES

Present:

- ✓ Marcy Singer: Chair
- ✓ Gloria Profetto: Treasurer
- ✓ Joyce Firth: Secretary
- ✓ Martha Grady
- ✓ Cynthia Donatelli
- ✓ Monika Schmidt

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:04P.M.
- II. A motion was made and seconded to accept January's minutes.
- III. Upon review of active members of the Mendon Cultural Council, it was pointed out that several member terms will be up in June 2014.
  - A. The Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) guidelines state that members may sit on a Local Cultural Councils for a maximum of two (2) three year terms for a total of six (6) years.
  - B. Town regulations, however, state that a term must coincide with the fiscal year.
    1. Using this as our guideline, Marcy Singer-Chair, Gloria Profetto-Treasurer, Cynthia Donatelli, and Martha Grady will need to either reapply for appointment, sit in as ex-officio members, or vacate their seat on the Council even though their tenure on the Council may fall short of the 6 year mark.
    2. Discussion followed regarding the discrepancy between the interpretation of State and local guidelines for Council terms, and the need for clarity on this issue.
- IV. Creation and work on the new Mendon Town Website is in progress.
  - A. Cynthia Donatelli and Marcy Singer are both attended training workshops on this preparing for it to go "live, April 1, 2014.
  - C. The Cultural Council will have a place within this website where, among other information, Council members can post Agendas and Minutes.
    1. The old site is currently not operational for these things.
    2. MCC guidelines suggest, and Town regulations require these things to be posted and available to the public.
- V. Marcy Singer and Joyce Firth attended the Local Cultural Council 2014 State Wide Assembly "Telling Our Story" in Boston on February 11, 2014.
  - A. These members shared the experiences, and distributed some promotional material to the other Council Members.

B. Among the many experiences of the day, members met with State Sen. Moore, the office of Rep. Fernandez, and Jen Atwater, our local liaison to the MCC.

1. Discussions with Jen Atwater were regarding Town restrictions for us to fundraise on the local level.

2. Members were informed that LLC's may fund raise, and are exempt from some town regulations/restrictions due to their association with the MCC as a State agency.

3. All agreed that this issue requires further clarity/discussion/investigation.

C. The Council discussed comparisons between our LLC and other LLC.s, siting fund raising practices of Bellingham, Upton and Milford's Cultural Council.

1. Gloria Profetto shared information regarding her contact with the Bellingham Council, which extended an invitation for any member of the Mendon group to attend their meetings, and which offered to share any information on how they operate with the Mendon Council.

2. Several members expressed an interest in this and will share their visit with other Council members at a future date.

VL. Further discussion took place on the Mendon Cultural Council website  
Priorities/Guidelines.

A. Marcy Singer defined "Priorities" as -What this Council feels we should fund based on what we think Mendon needs. And "Guidelines" as- What we as a Cultural Council are asking from the applicants. Applications can be accepted or rejected by this criteria.

1. Discussion revolved around comparisons with other town's guidelines and priorities.

2. Marcy Singer offered the following suggestions as "Priorities" which can be modified or accepted at a future meeting:

- 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.

3. Further discussion will be needed in order to come up with reasonable, mutually agreeable, working "Guidelines" for future MCC grant funding applicants.

VII. **NEXT MEETING: MARCH 18 at 7:00PM Location to be determined**

VIII. The meeting was adjourned 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce L. Firth, Secretary

