

Meeting Minutes
Weston Cultural Council
Online via Zoom
August 25, 2021 at 7 p.m.

WCC Members Present Online: Paul Angiolillo, Tom Kilgallen, Christine Martin, Jacob Sagrans, Sonali Tambe. Frank Parker via call-in.

1. Call to order.

Co-Chair Chris Martin called the online meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and recorded the proceedings. Paul read the Town policy for online remote meetings which provides protocol for setting up meetings and guidelines from a legal compliance perspective.

2. Resident comments.

There were no online resident comments.

3. Assigning secretary

Chris Martin was the secretary for the meeting.

4. Review and approve the minutes from May 2021

The minutes from May 2021 were duly reviewed, and approved. They will be submitted to Town Hall and posted in the Council's Google document folder.

5. Treasurer's report

Tom Kilgallen reported that he continues to receive and process reimbursement requests for projects that have been completed from both FY2020 and 2021. He and Chris met via Zoom with Susan Kelley, Weston's finance director and town accountant, on Monday to review the reimbursement status of outstanding grants. There is still \$3,700 of 2020 funds outstanding. Members who are liaisons for the various groups updated the council on the current status and will follow up to make sure the projects have been completed and that expenses will be submitted by September 2021. Outstanding grants for 2020 and council liaison:

Friendly Society - Tom

Charles River Sinfonietta - just completed and submitted - Paul

Wellesley Symphony Orchestra - Chris

De Cordova Museum - Chris

Golden Ball Tavern - Jacob

Margaret Wiss - Sonali

Gore Place - scheduled for September 5 - Chris

The MCC announced that it has awarded the WCC \$5,100 for FY22. According to Tom, Weston has matched that amount with \$4,900 from the town's FY22 budget. It is somewhat confusing because the town's fiscal year doesn't coincide with the MCC fiscal year, so Weston's allocation

predates the announcement by MCC each year, and is usually based on the previous year's allocation from MCC.

Members had an extended discussion about whether to adopt a direct pay method for dispersing grants, rather than the current reimbursement method after a project is completed. Tom shared the information from the MCC to support this change. The direct pay method would require grantees to sign a binding contract with a number of conditions to fulfill. If those conditions were not fulfilled, the funds would have to be returned in full. The MCC is pushing for towns to adopt that method.

Tom reported on the conversation with Susan Kelley in the accountant's office about whether town funds - in the form of the matching grant which the WCC receives each year - can be prepaid for a project. She has not made a final decision but said she would do so soon. Chris reported that the MCC offered examples of local councils which receive matching grants from their towns, including Framingham and Newton. Because the MCC is requiring towns to list the method they are adopting by September 1, Tom made a motion to adopt the direct pay method, unless the town objects. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

7. Update on 2021 grants

Members updated the status of their assigned projects which are moving forward, and several grantees have submitted expenses for 2021. In Facebook posts and websites of various groups, it appears the support received from the Weston Cultural Council is generally being acknowledged. Grantees should be reminded in emails, etc, to always acknowledge WCC support.

8. Planning for community survey to set Council priorities in 2022

Chris reminded members of the upcoming community input survey that will need to be conducted next spring. During the fall, we will update the 2019 survey to determine the council's priorities for the next 3 years. Chris commented that the grants we received in 2021 fulfilled many of the priorities in the last survey, so the questions should still be relevant.

9. New business

Paul reviewed the upcoming grant application timeline and will share the announcements for both the media and potential applicants with council members for their review. Applications can be submitted from the beginning of September through October 15. The council will review them in late November/early December and send out denial letters. In January, the approved applicants will be notified. Paul has a list of 170+ organizations and individuals that he will reach out to in the coming weeks. He will share the list for members to update and add to.

10. Next meeting date and adjournment:The next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in person or online, depending on Covid 19 restrictions. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.