

Harwich Cultural Council- Minutes- April 8, 2021- Held via Remote Participation

Present: Tina Games, Chair; Dinah Lane, Clerk; Chris Banks, Treasurer; Peter Hollis, Sharon Moore, Bernadette Waystack; Ricky Guillaume, MCC Program Officer

Absent: Charlie Barnes, Grants Coordinator

Meeting Call to Order at 4:02PM- Tina Games, Chair

Announcement- Tina shared the sad news of Peg Rose's passing. Peg was a supporter and member of numerous town activities, including being a long time Guild of Harwich Artists Board member, and President of the Harwich Historical Society. Bernadette spoke of her many contributions to the town and described her as being "everywhere with everyone".

March 11 meeting minutes- Approved unanimously

Old Business

- Tina reported that Chris Banks is now officially the Treasurer of the Council and has received all needed materials
- Status of 2020 Grant recipients- We are still awaiting 5 outstanding grant completions
- Status of 2021 Grant recipients- 3 grants have been processed including "Beyond the Bounds".
- Financial Report- As of April 6, the two accounts held by the Council are #1501- \$2,720 and #730- \$3873.74. Tina and Chris intend to meet with Carol Coppola to rectify the HCC account records with the town financial records, as there is a discrepancy.
There was some discussion of not having received the funds for 2021 from the state yet. Ricky reported the process is that when the Annual Report is complete, the paperwork has to be signed and the state releases the money. He confirmed that a letter went out from the MCC to Chris Clark (former Town Manager), but that it was never responded to. He requested the contact for the current Town Manager, Joe Powers. There was confusion expressed as to why the letter was not received or acted upon. It appears this is the first time in Tina's experience on the Council that there has been a delay in the receipt of funds from the state.
- Grant Evaluation Forms- There were suggestions for edits to both forms. Sharon will edit.

New Business

- Tina reported that there will be 4 vacancies on the Council for the next year. We currently have three open positions and Charlie has announced his resignation as of the end of June. Questions of Conflict of Interest were discussed with regard to a proposed candidate who has been denied an interview by the selectmen committee on the basis of their association with a local arts organization. Ricky confirmed that there is no proscription against such a person as there are clear procedures in place for any Conflict of Interest situation that might arise. Tina will send an email to Ricky regarding the specific situation and he will check with the MCC lawyer.
- MCC Update- Ricky presented an overview of the MCC's work and challenges during the past year. He identified Harwich as one of five "marquis communities" in the state, each of whom has received money through the Cultural Compact. This facilitated access to a Cultural District designation for Harwich. Harwich was due to receive another \$5000 this year, but due to redistribution of funds for Covid relief, this may be need to be reassessed.

Other Items

- Discussion of Grant reception for grantees in Fall of 2021, possibly virtual, as other Councils have done. Tina stated we may need the town's permission to meet.
- A list of grantees should be sent to Ricky who offered to post it on the Community Facebook page.
- Chris reported that she had received a thank you letter to the Council from the "Rise and Shine" program for being awarded their grant.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Chris, 2nd by Bernadette. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 5:24 PM.

Minutes submitted by Dinah Lane, Clerk