Meeting Minutes

Lenox Cultural Council

October 7, 2019

Present: Arlene D. Schiff, Erin McNamara, Katy Landers Holt, Donna Pignatelli

Guests: Marybeth Mitts, Lenox Selectman; Lisa Simmons, MCC Liaison

Lisa Simmons provided some introductory comments about the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) and their goal of raising the visibility of local Cultural Councils. They are also working with regional tourism councils and cultural districts to strengthen partnerships and create synergies among the groups. She offered several suggestions for our council to consider, including creating a calendar of events that are funded by our council, creating a section on the town website for LCC funded events, and conducting an asset mapping session that can help us identify spaces and places that could be utilized to promote arts and culture in our town.

Also discussed was the possibility of local councils combining press releases for grantee solicitation to generate a larger article in the newspaper, speaking at the Lenox Community Center about the role of the council and including information on the council in the monthly Lenox Library newsletter. Lisa described how other councils also host their own programs to increase visibility, such as an art festival or book fair. This is something the council will consider in the future; any proposal for this year would need to be submitted by October 15.

LCC member Beth Tracy Gamble was unable to attend but had filed a treasurer’s report showing that seven grantees remain to file for reimbursement. She also outlined the options for setting aside some portion of our funding for council events and expenses. The council voted to retain $546.19 for our annual grantee reception and community input event, as well as incidental expenses. This will then provide $9,415 in funds to distribute to grantees.

The council discussed having Erin McNamara assume the duties of assistant treasurer, in anticipation of Beth’s transition from that role in the future. A July timeframe was decided, which would also coincide with the transition of the secretary role to another council member.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday December 18th, from 5:00 to 8:00PM. The meeting will be devoted to the selection of grantees. In preparation for this meeting, all members should submit their selections by December 9th.

Submitted by Erin McNamara, Secretary

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