

Meeting Minutes
Lenox Cultural Council
January 20, 2021

Present: Arlene D. Schiff, Beth Tracy Gamble, Erin McNamara, Donna Pignatelli, Katy Holt, Marybeth Mitts

- Beth provided her Treasurer's report detailing available funds as \$12,600. This is comprised of \$4,900 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, \$4,800 from the Town of Lenox and \$2,900 in unencumbered funding primarily derived from 2020 events that were not held
- Arlene reported that three organizations had requested that their event grant be converted to reimbursement for operating expenses. Since we had previously agreed to this approach for other organizations due to the pandemic, these requests were approved
- The Council reviewed the 36 applications received requesting a total of \$25,704 in funding. Deliberations took place with the Council voting to provide funding to 26 organizations totaling \$12,600 and declining the applications of 10 organizations for not providing as much public benefit to Lenox residents as the other proposals
- While the council approved these 26 grant requests, three will be issued with conditions that we receive more details on venues, dates and permits being issued. We also discussed adding an additional requirement to next year's grant application of securing venue approvals prior to grant submission
- The Council assigned one member to be a liaison with each funded organization. This individual will keep in touch with the organization, attend the funded program where possible and keep other Council members apprised of when programs are taking place
- Disapproval letters will be sent out via email by Erin per MCC regulations before January 31st. These organizations have 15 days to request reconsideration of their application
- Once the 15-day reconsideration period has elapsed, Erin will send out approval letters via email by the end of February. Erin will also submit the annual LCC town report to the Town of Lenox by the February 17th deadline
- Arlene will draft the LCC press release after March 1st
- Beth reminded the council that her term will be ending on June 30th, 2021, and Erin has agreed to take over as Treasurer. This leaves the Secretary position vacant. Members were asked to think about potential new members to add. Each council is required to always maintain at least five appointed members.

Submitted by Erin McNamara, Secretary
Lenox Cultural Council