Westport Cultural Council Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2022

Members attending: Merri Cyr, Bob DelGaudio, Midori Evans, Carol Vidal, Nancy Whitin, Alexandra Whitney, Tom Peirce Absent: Ruth Bourns

**Old Business**

Carol Vidal called the meeting to order at 6:10.

Midori moved to accept the minutes of the March 2nd meeting. Tom seconded. All voted in favor.

Alexandra gave the Treasurer’s Report. The Westport Council on Aging is returning $840 of their Helen Ellis Grant due to Covid restrictions. This amount would be added into the unencumbered funds bringing the total to $1,863.37 + $840, for a total of $2,703.37.

There is encumbered money for the current Helen Ellis cycle that requires reimbursing before April 30th. The Westport Library notified the Council that they will be gathering receipts and sending a reimbursement soon. There are 2 outstanding grants from the Westport Town Recreation Dept. —$5000 for outdoor concerts and $2500 for movie night. They will be contacted by their liaison.

Alexandra suggested we could use our administrative funds for funding a new WCC portal.

**New Business**

There was a discussion about community input for this year. Discussion of a table at the town Farmer’s Market questioned whether it would draw in many people. Suggestions were made about ways to approach citizens with questions and it was agreed that in July or August the WCC would plan for a table at the Farmer’s Market.

The meeting then moved to the 20 Helen Ellis Grant applications. Tom presented a new spread sheet that charted proposed grant dollars by project. Tom spent additional time showing how his new grant graph program could be used.

The Council decided to only discuss the Helen Ellis applications and tentatively agree to most amounts but there were questions and additional paperwork that needed time to gather so the final voting will be held at the May 4th meeting.

Each grant proposal was discussed. See the attached list of grant applications below. When Midori’s and Merri’s grant proposals were discussed, they recused themselves.

Rob gave an update on the Film Committee plans. Weatherlow Farm needs a commitment in order to hold the date for any Westport film nights. Rob will investigate further on price and other venues.

The next meeting will be held on May 4, 2022 at 6 pm at the Town Annex at 816 Main Rd.

Rob made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom seconded and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Whitin, substituting for Ruth Bourns

