**Westport Cultural Council Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2021**

Members attending: Ruth Bourns, Merri Cyr, Rob Del Gaudio, Midori Evans, Tom Peirce, Carol Vidal, Nancy Whitin, Alexandra Whitney.

Carol opened the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Old Business: Carol notified the members that the denial letters for the LCC grant applicants were mailed and the 15 day waiting period for reconsideration was over. The remaining 17 applications can be discussed and funds allocated.

The Person/Organization and the Project Titles are below:

1. Midori Evans Meditations on Landscape
2. The Art Drive The Art Drive
3. SouthCoast Spring Arts SouthCoast Spring Arts
4. New Bedford Festival Theatre, Inc. Summer Academy: Beauty & the Beast & Beyond
5. Your Theatre Inc. New Bedford Jazz Fest
6. The Coalition for Buzzards Bay, Inc Discover Buzzards Bay: Westport
7. Westport River Watershed Alliance Winter Art Show
8. Round The Bend Pollinator Garden
9. Westport Music Boosters Association NBSO Learning in Concert

10. Westport Art Group, Inc. First Tuesdays

11. New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center, Inc. Fishboats

12.Tri-County Music Association, Inc. Complimentary Senior Tickets

13. South Coast Artists, Inc. Open Studio Tours

14. Old Dartmouth Historical Society Whales Today/History on the Hill

15. Zeiterion Theatre, Inc. 2022 NB Folk Festival

16. Westport Historical Society, Inc. Mining Climate Clues From Our Whaling Past

17. Mass Audubon Nature In Your Neighborhood

Secretaries Report: A motion was made to accept the minutes of the November 3, 2021 by Alexandra. Rob seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Treasurer’s Report: Alexandra said that several checks have gone out from the Town of Westport this last month as grantees have submitted their reimbursements. The unencumbered funds for the LCC account was $1176 and from the Helen Ellis Funds there are unencumbered funds from 2019-20 of $2844, 2020-21 of $16,794.52 and for 2021-22 of $1858.32. In total unencumbered funds for Helen Ellis was $21,496.96. This amount will be added to the $41,000 recently deposited to the Helen Ellis account from the Bank of America for the upcoming Helen Ellis RFP.

With these Helen Ellis funds and the granting period to begin on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 through Tuesday, March 15, 2022, Carol challenged the Council to create some new opportunities related to the arts which the Council can sponsor. News releases for the grant period will be sent out throughout January on social media, newspapers and cable access..

A grant application for the “Artists in Residence” program will be considered again this year but modified. Merri will continue looking for artists who can create art that is part of the land. She will continue working with the Land Trust on this project.

The LCC projects of the LCC grantees who were not part of the denials at the last Meeting were discussed. Midori Evans recused herself during the discussion of her application “Meditations on Landscape”. Each member of the Council has signed a ***Disclosure by Non-Elected Municipal Employee of Financial Interest and Determination by Appointing Authority*** form as required when members are voting on another members grant application.

Decisions were made concerning the amounts of each project to be awarded. It was moved and agreed unanimously to give the amounts discussed for the grants. Entries to MCC’s SmartSimple and written letters of approvals will be mailed the first of the new year.

There was no new business. Rob made a motion to close the meeting. Tom seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 5, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Bourns, Secretary