Westport Cultural Council Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2022

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

Carol opened the meeting at 6:01. The group met over Zoom.

Rob moved that the Minutes from the last meeting be approved. Tom seconded and all voted in favor.

Carol informed the group that the Helen Ellis application period started on February 1, 2022 and will close on March 15, 2022. There is $62, 000 available to award during this grant period.

Carol spoke about her feeling that the Council needs to have its own website. A number of ideas were mentioned as possible ways to achieve this. Nancy mentioned Art Span which is $15 a month. She offered to help with setting it up.

The group is at present unclear about whether the website can be independent of the Town Website. It may be possible to create a portal on the Town Website to use as a new outlet. Carol offered to create a proposal to present to the Town Selectmen asking about the possibilities available to us as a Town Council.

Alexandra presented the Treasurer’s Report. Some reimbursements have been made from the 2021-2022 LCC Fund and from the 2021-2022 Helen Ellis Fund. As stated earlier, there will be $ 62,000 to work with when granting Helen Ellis applications.

The Film Series Committee held its first meeting in January. Rob Gaudio will act as chairman of the Committee. In addition to Rob, Carol, Tom, and Midori were present as committee members. The committee is considering expanding the film offerings next summer. In addition to the three documentaries offered in the past, a series of short films might be offered as a shorts festival.

The committee is interested in connecting with film series in the larger area. Mentioned were four nearby film festivals in this area: Woods Hole, Rhode Island, Nantucket, and the Independent Film Fest of Boston. We might offer a slot in our series to each festival to screen one of their films, have the filmmakers and festival reps present for Q and A, and build an ongoing relationship with them. Our annual series might be considered an extension of their festivals in the future.

The Film Committee is also looking for a different venue for the festival this year. Being considered are Weatherlow Farms, and the Grange on Main Rd.

New Business

Jane Dufault with Music Boosters announced that she cannot use the funds granted to her from the MCC because The New Bedford Symphony will not be performing this year.

Deborah Weaver reported that the grant to be used for a mural at the Westport River Watershed Alliance will go forward as planned.

The New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center, Inc. grant will not be used because the group did not receive the larger grant of $20,000 from another source.

The next Meeting will be held on March 2, 2022.

Rob moved that the meeting be adjourned. Tom seconded and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Bourns, Secretary