**Westport Cultural Council Meeting Minutes of January 5, 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 6:07.

The meeting was held via Zoom.

Old business -

Approval of December 1, and December 29 Meetings. Alexandra moved to accept the Minutes of the December 1, 2021 Meeting. Tom seconded and all voted in favor. Midori moved to accept the Minutes of the December 29, 2021 Meeting. Tom seconded and all voted in favor.

Treasurer’s Report -

Alexandra gave the Treasurer’s Report.

Interest balance in 19 Fund is $46.67.

In the Helen Ellis Fund - 82 Fund- there is $30,073.45 encumbered and $56,056.41 in unspent funds.

Unspent funds in the WCC 15 Fund are $1,807.54. $350.00 of these funds will be added to the MCC Grant Funds of $7,650.00. Thus the amount available for grants in this cycle is $8,000.00.

With the new amount of $8,000.00 available for grants for this cycle, the Council revisited previous funding decisions. Rob moved to accept the new figures as final figures for the LCC cycle. Nancy seconded. Those individual grant amounts are as follows:

1. Midori Evans Meditations on Landscape $500
2. The Art Drive The Art Drive $750
3. Southeast Spring Arts SouthCoast Spring Arts $250
4. New Bedford Festival Theatre Inc. Summer Academy: Beauty & Beast

 and Beyond $500

5. Your Theatre Inc. New Bedford Jazz Fest $100

6. The Coalition For Buzzard’s Bay Discover Buzzard’s Bay: Westport $300

7. Westport River Watershed Alliance Winter Art Show $500

8. Round The Bend Pollinator Garden $650

9. Westport Music Boosters Association NBSO Learning In Concert $900

10. Westport Art Group Inc. First Tuesdays $400

11. New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center Fishboats $250

 Inc.

12. Tri-County Music Association, Inc. Complimentary Senior Tickets $200

13. South Coast Artists, Inc. Open Studio Tours $750

14. Old Dartmouth Historical Society Whales Today/History on the Hill $350

15. Zeiterion Theatre, Inc. 2022 NB Folk Festival $400

16. Westport Historical Society Inc. Mining Climate Clues From Our

 Whaling Past $300

17. Mass Audubon Nature In Your Neighborhood $900

Rob was asked by Carol to help form a Film Committee. He will pick the dates for the committee to meet. All those interested are invited to come to meetings at his home.

Helen Ellis news releases will go out soon. They will appear on Facebook, and press releases will be sent out every week until March 15, 2022. This will include cable stations. Signs along the road were also discussed.

There was a lengthy discussion about new ways to encourage artists to apply for grants. Merri suggested placing press releases in sites outside Westport while encouraging applicants to bring their projects to Westport for community enrichment.

The group talked about applying for a Helen Ellis grant to the Council to create a new project here in Westport. Rob suggested creating a spot for the Council to use on going for plays and theatre offerings. Council members are encouraged to look for property where something could be built and used for artistic purposes. There was a great deal of interest in offering live theater for the Westport community.

Council members were encouraged to also think of existing properties that would lend themselves to performances on stage. The Westport Winery was mentioned as a possibility as well as Weatherlow Farms.

Beverly Bisch at the Council on the Aging has asked for a change in the project for the HE grant, “Seniors on The Road Again.” Because the location for the trip has changed, she no longer needs the original amount of $840 for the project. She requests that the amount of the grant amount be changed to $643.00. Alexandria moved to approve amending the grant amount. Rob seconded. All voted in favor.

There was no further business. Alexandra moved that the meeting be adjourned. Tom seconded. All voted in favor.

The next Meeting of the Council will be on February 2, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Bourns, Secretary

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