Westport Cultural Council Meeting minutes of July 7, 2021

Present: Carol Bonner, Ruth Bourns, Merri Cyr (via Facetime), Rob Del Gaudio, Midori Evans, Carol Vidal, Alexandra Whitney.

Absent: Nancy Whitin.

Carol called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. She introduced herself as the new Chair of the Westport Cultural Council. She mentioned that this is her 13th year as a Council member.

Three new members of the Council introduced themselves: Carol Bonner, Midori Evans, and Rob Del Gaudio. Returning members of the Council also introduced themselves: Ruth Bourns, Merri Cyr, Carol Vidal, and Alexandra Whitney.

Old Business

Carol answered questions about the procedures of the Westport Cultural Council in awarding grants. She spoke about the monies set aside for the Helen Ellis Grant and the differences between the Massachusetts Cultural Council Grants and the Helen Ellis Grants. Alexandra spoke about unspent funds because of the pandemic. The Board will meet in September to learn about the funds available for this year.

Alexandra made a motion to accept the minutes from June 6. Ruth seconded. All voted in favor.

Treasurer’s Report

Alexandra gave the Treasurer’s Report. She reported that there were only two changes since last month.

The Library asked that their reimbursement deadline from the Helen Ellis Grant be extended to September 16, 2021.

The Westport Art Group was able to use only $325 out of the $825 granted to them for the summer projects.There are $855 of unspent LCC funds. We will ask the LCC if we can add this to the next cycle.

Alexandra explained that a Council member is assigned to each grantee to offer support and follow up on any questions. Council members are asked to introduce themselves after the grants are made and attend the grantee’s events when possible.

Outreach/Communications

Nancy will be working with Carol to write press releases when needed.

Rob asked asked about the Council’s Facebook page. Merri is learning about new ways to expand its use. Alexandra asked about updates to the Town website. Merri and Carol will log into the website to make updates.

Membership

We need to find someone to take Lucy Tabit’s place on the Council.

New Business

Film Series - It has been decided to save the film “We Used To Live Here” for another year because we are not informed at this time about all of the contacts with the Wampanoug speaker. Three films will be shown at the Dede Shattuck Gallery on these dates: Aug. 4, “Maiden,” August 11, “Honeyland,” and August 25, “Innocents of Florence.” There is a speaker for Aug. 4. Ned Daniels will be the speaker for Aug. 11, and Liz Wicks will be the speaker for Aug. 25. Carol will get out a poster and send a pdf to Council members. Ruth will follow up on the contract with the Dede Shattuck Gallery. Rob offered to arrive early on these nights and help with set up. The Series will be dedicated to Lucy Tabit.

Merri reported on the Artist in Residence Program. All is going well. 30 people came to hear Roberly’s talk at the Dede Shattuck Gallery in June. Matt Magee will be here in July. There will be a Saturday Workshop in July when the participants will make a long banner of plastics found in the sea. On July 22 Matt will speak at the Dede Shattuck Gallery. Merri mentioned that Ross and Brendan of the Westport Land Conservation Trust have been extremely helpful in making the program a success.

There being no further business, Alexandra made a motion to adjourn. Ruth seconded. All voted in favor. The next meeting will be on the September 1, 2021.

Respectfully submitted, Ruth Bourns, Secretary