Westport Cultural Council Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2022

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

Guest and incoming member: Ned Daniels

Old Business

Rob moved that the Minutes of the May 4, 2022 meeting be approved. Tom seconded. All voted in favor.

Alexandra gave the Treasurer’s Report. $11,410.90 has been spent in reimbursements. Still outstanding is $2,000.00 to the Westport River Watershed Alliance, and $12,000.00 to Stephanie Winters. There is a $50.60 balance in the 19 Fund. There is a balance of $57,519.29 in the Helen Ellis 82 Fund. There is a balance of $9,312.28 in the WCC 15 Fund.

New Business

Merri announced that Lucy Tabit’s Memorial at Round the Bend Farm will be held in June.

Carol announced that Tom Peirce will serve as the new Council Treasurer beginning in July. Carol introduced Ned Daniels as a new Council member.

Rob reported on the Summer Film Series. There will be 4 screenings. July 20 - The Earth is Blue as An Orange; August 3 - Seed: The Untold Story.; August 17 - Wood, Sails, and Dreams Manhattan Shorts will be shown on September 30. All films will be shown this year at Weatherlow Farm and the Manhattan Shorts will be shown at the Westport Grange on Main Road.

There was discussion about the future of the Artist in Residence Program. It was decided that the program would be sponsored by the Cultural Council and the planning for the program would be done by the group. Merri may serve as chair of the group and incorporate other members to help with the planning. Ned and Midori volunteered to serve on the Committee.

Some interest was expressed in drawing local artists to the program as well as those from a distance. Rob suggested that one artist from the Southcoast Artist Group and one artist from the Art Drive be chosen to be among the artists in residence.

The suggestion was made to also contact local art schools such as RISD and the MFA for candidates.

Carol spoke about the need for the Council to create a Community Input Program as required by the Mass Cultural Council every three years.. This would be a program to gather community input to guide the Council on further grant decisions. The Farmer’s Market might be a spot where we could advertise what we do as a Council. We could also do this at the Film Series gatherings.

This slate of officers for the upcoming year for the Westport Cultural Council was proposed and voted.

Carol Vidal - Chairman

Tom Peirce - Treasurer

Ned Daniels – Secretary (postponed until next Council meeting.)

There was discussion about streamlining some of the responsibilities of the Chairman. It was also suggested that a tech person be employed so that we can use technology more efficiently. The entire Helen Ellis Grant process needs to be updated. The applications could be completed online and letters of support and the reimbursement form could also be online.

Having no more new business, Alexandra moved that the meeting be adjourned. Nancy seconded. All voted in favor.

The next meeting will be held in the Town Annex on July 6.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Bourns,

Secretary