**Westport Cultural Council Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2022**

Members Attending: Carol Vidal, Tom Peirce, Rob DelGaudio, Midori Evans, Merri Cyr, Ned Daniels AND, Nancy Whitin.

The meeting was called to order at 5:37.

**Minutes** were presented, and Nancy Whitin pointed out that her name was not included in the October minutes. Her name was added to the October 5 minutes.

**Treasurer’s Report**: Tom Peirce explained some of the changes from the last Treasurer’s Report that was emailed to members prior to the meeting. The changes since that report were included in the presentation he then made. The Film Series came in under budget, and that money was included in the unencumbered funds for Helen Ellis. The members shared many positive comments about the “Manhattan Shorts” held at the Grange this September. This was part of the film series presentation along with the 3 documentaries.

Tom then led us into a discussion about the LCC grant requests, the main topic of the meeting. His presentation was very professional and technical. He presented not only the spreadsheet, but also a chart showing how members compared or contrasted with regard to monies they would allocate to each of the 25 grant requests submitted this LCC 2023 grant period.

All members posted their individual grant estimates on the spreadsheet Tom provided. Grants that members assigned no monies were set aside and the remainder of the grants were allocated the $8970available grant money.

By 6:50 p.m. the group had completed an initial and thorough assessment of each grant except for three grants that required additional information before a vote. A member was assigned to each of the three grants to follow up on at the December final voting meeting.

Carol Vidal then discussed the issue of members submitting grant requests while active members due to the conflict-of-interest issue. She also made it clear that for professional and reputational reasons it was best not to allow this practice. Once a member steps down from the Council they are free to submit a grant if they so choose.

We discussed how to deal with a difficult WCC town website. Should we hire someone to administer the town site or work a separate website managed by the WCC. We would need to hire someone and pay them to manage it. A possible salary of $500.00 was suggested as it would be a part-time effort. Rob will contact Chris Nunez to see who on the faculty at the high school might be interested in such a role.

**New Business**: none

A motion was made and seconded at 7:14 to end the meeting. Next meeting will be December 7, 2022at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Annex.

A special thanks to Tom for the excellent way he prepared the spreadsheet for the WCC members to enter their grant estimates that will be voted on next month for our final decisions. Very impressive!