

Shelburne Cultural Council
Minutes, Sept. 17, 2020

The Shelburne Cultural Council met via ZOOM on Thursday, Sept. 17, using the Town of Shelburne Official ZOOM account

Members on the call: Connie Clarke, Kate Whittaker, Nancy Eisenstein, Sally Judd, Kay Berenson, Diane Poland and newly appointed members Owen Bragdon, Samantha Feury and Yana Cortlund Feasy. Invited guests (possible council members) on the call: Eben Sorkin, Jacqui Goodman, Lashaun Roman, Tom Kuklinski and Nancy Sachs.

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by chair Connie Clarke who welcomed new members as well as guests.

After a round of introductions by guests and council members, minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

In chair's report, Connie noted an article in that day's Greenfield Recorder about local cultural councils and the challenges faced because of COVID and resulting state budget questions. She reported on communications with MCC liaison regarding the process of hiring a new state director for the agency and the status of budget discussions. Ricardo indicated a budget for the state cultural agency and the LCCs is not likely until another round of federal COVID stimulus money is approved for the states. The deadline for all grant applications to LCCs has been pushed back to Nov. 16 but LCCs may not have allocations at that point and may not be able to proceed with decision making then.

Connie also reported that reimbursements for two 2019 grants were still pending but that the projects had been completed and the required documentation should be completed soon. Most 2020 grants are still pending because COVID shut down events. After discussion, council decided to send a letter to all grantees asking about plans for their cancelled 2020 events and outlining options for grant money going forward. Connie, Nancy and Kate will handle the letter.

The draft statement of Shelburne Cultural Council priorities for the coming year was approved by unanimous vote as submitted and will be posted on the MCC site as required.

Discussion then turned to outreach, publicity and social media strategies for the council. Samantha volunteered to work on press release and Connie agreed to assemble samples of past releases. Eben agreed to work on possible logo and also agreed to join the council. Jacqui Goodman also agreed to join the council. Both names will be submitted to the Select Board for appointment. New members of the council agreed to work on social media strategy suggestions prior to the next meeting. Next ZOOM meeting was set for 7 p.m. Thursday, October 8. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes: Kay Berenson, Secretary

