

SHELBURNE CULTURAL COUNCIL
Minutes: June 10, 2021 Meeting

The Shelburne MA Local Cultural Council met via Zoom on June 10, 2021.

Council Members Present: Connie Clarke, Kate Whittaker, Kay Berenson, Eben Sorkin, Yana Cortlund Feasey, Owen Bragdon, Jacqui Goodman, Jennifer Bauman

Council Members Absent: Nancy Eisenstein, Sam Feury, Barbara Watts (proposed new member), Sally Judd (resigned 5/31/21), Diane Poland, (resigned 6/30/21)

Invited Guests: Linn Bower (potential new member)

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m. by Chair Connie Clarke.

Council members welcomed invited guest, Linn Bower, who introduced herself and expressed interest in joining the Council. The Council unanimously voted to extend an invitation to join the Council to her. (Chair's post meeting note: Linn has agreed to be appointed by the Selectboard to a three-year term effective July 1; along with Barbara Watts). Both appointments are pending approval by Selectboard.

The Council approved the draft minutes of the May 10 meeting, with changes proposed by Yana to clarify web site costs and timing.

Connie provided an update on grants, noting that reimbursement requests received since last meeting had been reviewed for compliance and accurate information, such as program presented as awarded or modified, complete W-9, MCC/SCC credit, and adequate publicity for virtual events to Shelburne residents.

She also noted that one grantee used MCC's final report form that Connie felt the Council should consider adopting as part of the 2022 Priorities statement.

Order of business then moved to discussion and voting of the proposed 2021 slate of officers. Connie reported her telephone conversation with MCC liaison Ricky Guillaume regarding how to resolve the issue of SCC finding a Chair given challenges presented by both the pandemic and number of June 30 retirements and resignations. She offered to serve an extension up to one year if that met MCC approval followed by the Shelburne Selectboard's special appointment. Ricky and his supervisor provided this citation from the MCC/LCC Guidelines:

“Notwithstanding the expiration of a member’s term, under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 10, § 58, a member with an expired term shall continue to “serve until the qualification of such member’s successor.” This rule is a “safe harbor” provision intended to avoid quorum problems for Councils when waiting for new appointments to be made. Councils and municipalities should not abuse this rule

in order to allow members to serve endless or greatly extended terms. Membership and leadership transitions must be handled in a responsible and timely manner at the discretion of the municipality and Local Cultural Council.”

Council voted to ask the Selectboard to extend Connie’s term.

Council then voted to approve the proposed slate of officers, as follows:

Chair – Connie Clarke
Treasurer – Jennifer Bauman
Secretary – Kate Whittaker
Co-Chair – Owen Bragdon
IT Manager – Yana Cortlund Feasey

The Council thanked Nancy and Kay for so ably carrying out their elected roles as Treasurer and Secretary for the past three years. Sally Judd and Diane Poland in absentia were also thanked for their years of outstanding dedication and service to the Council’s work.

Connie then asked Yana to lead the discussion on the Council’s own project to develop a SCC website (identified as grant 2021-24), for which 15% of the Town’s 2021 allocation was designated (\$735 of \$4900) as per MCC guidelines. Project title of “Connecting the Dots” was approved to reflect the use of web and social media to better connect the Council with artists, audiences and other cultural councils. The plan is to develop the project in phases. First step will be to establish a Google Docs account for the Council to create a central and accessible digital workspace and filing system. Next will be a Facebook page and Instagram account to start creating connections with other groups and building audience.

It is anticipated that grant #24 will require an extension and Connie assured that would not be an issue. Eben will focus on a logo design and said he now wants to think through the “Connecting the Dots” motif. The logo will help the SLCC with branding identification—helpful especially for our grantee obligation to reflect us in the promotion materials.

In wrapping up other business, council agreed to find a date and time to meet in-person with MCC liaison Ricky Guillaume sometime in July. Connie will work on finding meeting time to accommodate Ricky’s travel and members’ work and personal schedules. She suggested that would be the public meeting for July. August’s public meeting would be to finalize 2022 Priorities and prepare for the new LCC grant season.

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:38 pm.

Minutes by Kate Whittaker, Secretary-elect; edits by Kay Berenson and Connie Clarke