

Shelburne Cultural Council

Minutes: March 22, 2022

Meeting was called to order via Zoom at 6:32 pm by Co-Chair Owen Bragdon.

Present: Owen Bragdon, Co-Chair, Jennifer Bauman, Treasurer, Kate Whittaker, Secretary, Linn Bower, Jacqui Goodman, Eben Sorkin. **Absent:** Barbara Watts.

Minutes for the January 18th meeting were approved.

Jennifer and Jacqui reported that all SCC files are now relocated in Memorial Hall. Jennifer updated us on two grantees: Franklin Co. Land Trust's W9 and Mark Benjamin extension forms.

Council members acknowledged Connie Clarke's official retirement and was appreciatively thanked for her dedicated service. A brief discussion followed on reorganization: all agreed on the fairness and benefit of equally shared responsibilities. Owen agreed to facilitate our Facebook page; Eben will cover our IT needs; Jennifer and Jacqui will perform treasurer tasks and Kate and Linn secretarial responsibilities. Eben has agreed to take over from Kate hosting meetings and will switch to Google Meet. It was decided that he will be reimbursed for the meeting service fee.

Members were reminded to renew their Conflict of Interest status as needed.

Eben provided an update on the SCC email account status. He will continue researching options that will allow all members access to the account. Members agreed to allocate SCC expense funds for an email annual account fee if required. The topic will be revisited at April's meeting.

An in-depth discussion regarding Direct Funding vs our current Reimbursement model resulted in the unanimous decision to switch to Direct Funding. Direct Funding fulfills MCC's wish that we get MCC's money into the hands of recipients as quickly as possible, provides an equitable playing field for artists and organizations of all economic means, operates on the more desirable basis of trust, and alleviates the workload of SCC's treasurers as well as the Shelburne town treasurer. Jennifer and Jacqui will pursue requirements related to implementing this change. It was agreed that the need for correspondence with applicants (and recipients) will be essential to ensure a smooth transition from the Reimbursement method. The Council will direct applicants to MCC's website for instruction and to any workshops MCC plans to hold on the subject.

Discussion turned to the intentions of members whose terms will end in June 2023, and on the need to recruit new members this summer. A couple of possible candidates were suggested and will be contacted in the coming months. It was noted that the Council would ideally like to continue to reflect the diversity of our community.

A brief review was presented of the 8 LCCs who came together via Zoom on March 11th. Invitations were based on significant [>50%] applicant overlap plus MCC's regional district map of West County. While interest in forming a Regional District is, at present, low, there was a positive sense of connection between us all. Most towns felt protective of their individual town artists and organizations and allocation but agreed interacting could be helpful whether we formed a union or not. Our SCC is interested in forming a partnership with a neighboring town whose recipient list greatly overlaps with ours if there is interest on their part. A partnership, as witnessed via the success of Charlemont-Hawley, would greatly reduce the complication and confusion of the grant cycle process for our applicants, reduce the redundant load on our Councils and that of our Town Treasurers, and also reduce the need for recruiting so many people who all do the same job.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Kate Whittaker, Secretary, and Linn Bower