

Great Barrington Cultural Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 15 at 6:30pm
Zoom Video Conference
FINAL

In attendance: Ellen Shanahan, Haley Barbieri, Tate Coleman, Milena Cerna, Patrick Barrett

Absent: Amy Taylor

Guests: Matilda Choi, Stacia Ostrow, Verónica Ramírez Martell

I. Meeting called to order

Ellen called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

II. Approve minutes

Tate moved to approve the November minutes, Patrick seconded. All in favor, minutes approved.

III. Meet new members

Milena has been sworn in as a new member. Stacia and one other will do this before our next meeting to officially become members of the council.

IV. Annual Report and Previous Year Grant Status

Ellen is working on the annual report.

Tate has been waiting for all documentation for previous grants to be able to submit all at once. He met with Sue, the town accountant, last week. Checks will be on the way to grantees this week except for one.

One organization had canceled an event in February 2020 due to COVID and Sue said this could not provide documentation to auditors for this payment because it was not March or later.

MCC provides the LCCs with money and it is up to the municipality as to how it is spent. Often there needs to be proof of an event having already happened. If events were scheduled during the time the pandemic was declared in the town, funding could still be provided.

Patrick asked if there would be an appeal process for the group so they could still get their funding -- Verónica suggested asking the town since it is in their hands.

Tate will ask at Town Hall for a list of how things are going, documentation, etc.

We are supposed to be part of the pilot program for giving money before events as opposed to after for reimbursement -- we don't know if the town knows this yet or not.

V. Develop Process and Schedule for Reviewing New Grants in Current Cycle

Verónica said the MCC is working on panel books and there will be a meeting with MCC at the beginning of January where spending allocation will likely be determined and we should know our allotment by the middle of January (subject to change). There are about 37 applications this year.

Patrick will use the data to create a spreadsheet as in years past. We may modify criteria to include things such as accessibility (public transport, Zoom, etc). We may not be able to use it as formal criteria if it is not listed in our priorities. We can include conditional criteria for projects with good merit that may need modification due to COVID, etc.

Patrick will randomly assign two council members to each application to do an initial review in-depth and then report back to the council with those initial thoughts at the next meeting.

First, we will decide what projects we are not funding by February 13. We have to wait 15 days after those letters go out to allow time for applicants to appeal the denial before officially approving any other projects.

January 19 and January 26 are suggested as dates to review grants after our December meeting.

VI. Old business

None to report.

VII. New business

We have been notified that everyone on a board or council needs to sign the Open Meeting Law form which needs to be either scanned or dropped off at town hall affirming that the town gave a copy of the Open Meeting Law. There is another form that needs to be filled out as well. This needs to be completed by the end of the year.

VIII. Citizen Speak

Matilda Choi is a Simon's Rock student in history and music, introduced to the meeting by Tate, has lived in GB for about 2 ½ years, joined the meeting to introduce some of her projects and ideas.

Verónica offered a review of what it's like to be an LCC member for either new members or the whole council.

IX. Adjourn meeting

Ellen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Tate seconded. All in favor, the meeting adjourned 7:49pm.

Next meeting is scheduled January 19 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Haley Barbieri
Recording Secretary