

GREAT BARRINGTON CULTURAL COUNCIL

Thursday, March 2, 2023

1. Call to order –Ellen Shanahan made a motion to open the meeting; Allison Zivin seconded. Patrick called the meeting to order at 6:06pm. Roll call vote: Patrick Barrett aye, Stacy Ostrow, aye, Ellen Shanahan aye, Sherry Steiner aye, Allison Zivin aye. Absent: Elissa Haskins-Vaughan.
2. Approve minutes from last meeting (discussion/vote)
Allison made a motion to approve the January 5, 2022 minutes; Sherry seconded. Patrick asked if any discussion – there was none. Roll call vote: Patrick aye, Stacy aye, Ellen aye, Sherry aye, Allison aye. All in favor: 5-0.
3. Old Business
 - a. PR update – It was confirmed the press release was sent to publications and shared on social media.
 - b. New council member – Patrick confirmed Leora was still interested in joining and he will follow up with the Town Manager. It was confirmed she is on the February 27 Selectboard agenda.
4. New Business
 - a. Conflict of interest training – Partrick forwarded an email with the training link to GBCC members.
 - b. Mission statement update strategies/public outreach – Patrick stated we should determine a strategy for getting public input on the mission statement. He stated the survey has had limited success, but asked if we should try again or use another method. Allison stated the survey took time to design/distribute and tabulating data was difficult and not very meaningful since there were not many responses. She also noted the main feedback received was about being more inclusive and noted it is unlikely that would impact the mission statement. There was discussion about the obstacles around doing direct mail and other methods used in the past such as having an event and a table at Town meeting that were not especially successful. Allison suggested using a survey format, offering multiple mission statements, and asking which one responders would support – but there was concern people would not read them. It was agreed that the members would think about it. Related to the GBCC mission – Patrick asked for perspective on making a small number of larger grants rather than making as many grants as possible. It was stated a large grant for the Council would not be that big, but would be more meaningful for grantees and potentially the Council's role/positioning. It was noted the mission statement would have to be revised to be more specific and reflect our priorities. It was suggested that we might need to ask for more detailed information on the application and perhaps have an interview with applicants. There was stronger interest in supporting a larger number of grantees.

Patrick stated he would check on grantee paperwork and would meet with Allison to discuss Treasurer duties.

5. Citizen Speak – No citizens asked to speak.
6. Set next meeting date – Next meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 3 at 6:00pm. Patrick asked if any member would be willing to learn how the Zoom web/agenda works so there is back-up. It was discussed whether we will be required to meet in person – there was agreement that Zoom is best, but we could inquire what other committees are doing.
7. Adjourn Meeting - Ellen made a motion to adjourn; Allison seconded. Roll call vote: Patrick aye, Stacy aye, Ellen aye, Sherry aye, Allison aye. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Ostrow, Secretary