

Meeting Minutes  
Weston Cultural Council  
Online via Zoom  
March 1, 2022 at 7 p.m.

WCC Members Present Online: Tom Kilgallen, Marilyn Hirsch, Christine Martin, Frank Parker, Jamie Peebles, Jacob Sagrans, Sonali Tambe.

**1. Call to order.**

Co-Chair Chris Martin called the online meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Chris read the updated Town policy for online remote meetings which provides protocol for setting up meetings and guidelines from a legal compliance perspective.

**2. Resident comments.**

There were no online resident comments.

**3. Assigning secretary**

Chris Martin was the secretary for the meeting.

**4. Review and approve the minutes from January 11, 2022**

The minutes from January 11, 2022 were duly reviewed. The minutes were approved and will be submitted to Town Hall and posted in the Council's Google document folder.

**5. Treasurer's report and review of reimbursements**

Tom gave an update on completed and outstanding reimbursements for 2021 grants. Outstanding recipients were assigned to various members for follow-up. It seems all projects, except for one, have actually been completed.

**6. Review of new grants and contracts returned**

Tom reviewed the status of the 2022 grants whose funds will be distributed through the direct pay option from MCC. Going forward, Jamie will handle the new grants and Tom will continue to handle the remaining reimbursements until they are completed. Tom and Jamie will meet with Susan Kelley in the town's treasurer's office to start the 2022 procedure.

Tom said that so far, 8 of the 15 recipients for 2022 have returned their paperwork. Chris will contact the other 7 and give them a March 15 deadline to return their paperwork, so the grant payment process doesn't drag out.

Members will be expected to follow the new grantees to assure they fulfill their obligations, including publicizing their project or event and acknowledging the support of the MCC and WCC. New grantees assigned to Paul and Jacob during the vetting process will be reassigned to new members.

## **7. Review of Council membership**

Chris noted that Jacob and Paul will be retiring this spring after three years of service, and the town is advertising for the two open positions on the Council. Chris thanked Jacob for his contributions to the Council, especially his thorough followup of his assigned recipients. Paul was thanked in absentia for his work, especially for handling all of the communications about the Council in the press and social media, including writing press releases, posting information on Facebook, and soliciting applications for grants. Paul has created an archive of his work, and hopefully a new member will be willing to take on that role.

## **8. Town-wide survey**

Chris reported that she distributed a copy of questions from the 2019 survey for members to consider in the coming weeks. She would like to wait until the new members are on board in order to benefit from their input, but also hopes to include the thoughts of the two retiring members. The goal of the survey is to identify the topics and types of programming that would benefit the widest range of residents, and enable the council to create a mission statement that would draw applications from presenters who could best fulfill that mission for the town. The survey would ideally be available to distribute, via email and hard copy, by late spring, well before the fall grant cycle.

## **9. New Business**

Frank discussed the possibility of receiving a contribution from the Weston Rotary to help fund additional projects. He would like to arrange a meeting/call to present the Council's work and solicit their support. Since there isn't a precedent for receiving additional funds for grants, Tom will check with Town Hall about the process and Chris will contact the MCC to see if there are any restrictions on such contributions.

## **10. Next meeting date and adjournment**

The next meeting was not selected during the meeting (an oversight). Meeting adjourned at 7:40.