

Milford Cultural Council

Meeting Minutes January 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Room 2, Milford Town Hall

Present: Michael Visconti, Nicole Romiglio, Marcia Macri, Geri Eddins, Vinnie Kiezjo, Bryan Cole, Pati Salomon, Jenny Lyons

Absent: Molly Auger, Jim Buckley, Christine Daddario, Chris Vendetti, Megan Oliveira

* This Meeting Includes Agenda Items from the Cancelled December 17 Meeting *

A. Geri Eddins - Call to Order at 7:06

B. Invitation to Speak

C. Review and Approve the Minutes of the November 19 meeting:

- Moved Michael Visconti, 2nd Vinnie Keizjo - Vote: unanimous

D. Discussion with Town Attorney Charles Boddy: TENTATIVE - did not attend; will invited to February Meeting.

- Intended topics to discuss:
 - Revisions to MCC Rules and Regulations: Bryan handed out to look through.
 - MCC Membership: Geri

E. Announcements: Geri

- COI Law Summary and Form - all present members were given copies of COI law and signed back page to be returned to Town Clerk.
- Annual Report Submitted to State Council 12/21/2019
- Year-End Report Submitted to BOS 12/27/2019 - Geri Eddins requested mtg with BOS, again. No response as of yet.

F. Financial Report: Geri

- \$14,900 allotment received from the state; 1/7 deposited via Tom Brown.
- Unexpected reimbursement request of \$600
 - The senior center 2019 luncheon application had a date of 2018. When the town accountant and Geri reconciled the account upon joining the council, past year's reimbursements were mistaken as the 2019 payment. It was determined that the 2019 reimbursement had not yet been made.
 - Luis Cotto at Mass Cultural Council suggested we pay out utilizing 2021 allocation, and be in arrears this year \$600. Tom Brown, accountant agrees with Luis Cotto. Geri was also advised to send email to Tom, Zach, Bryan to inform them of the mistake and plan moving forward so that we have record of the mistake and corrections as well as a contingency plan moving forward.
 - Michael Visconti moved to deny request for reimbursement, 2nd Marcia Macri - Vote: Visconti & Macri in favor, all other opposed.
 - Vinny Kiezjo moved to approve, 2nd Patricia Salomon - Vote: all in favor except Visconti & Macri. - approved.
 - Michael Visconti suggests a stern letter to the senior center to warn that typos will not be tolerated, Jenny Lyons disagrees, says this is excessive. Council agrees with Lyons, it was an honest mistake missed by the voting board at the 2019 allocation approval meeting.
 - Circled back at the end of the meeting - Marcia Macri still concerned. Would like to start the 2020 grant year with a clean slate.

- Michael Visconti motion to reconsider denial, 2nd: Marcia Macri - Vote 2 in favor, all others opposed.
- Other reimbursement requests received : Greater Milford Community Chorus.

G. Old Business

- Grant Applications:
 - 12 denial letters emailed 12/2. 1 denial letter emailed 12/3/19.
 - Communications from Fran Hart and Bill Moffett - both expressing concern at denial letters. Both were given feedback regarding the decision and encouraged to apply again next year.
 - Award letters mailed 12/19 and 12/20
 - Thank you emails received from: Seven Hills, Blackstone Valley, Roger Tincknell, Ed the Wizard, Stephen Lewis, Audio Journal.
 - Evaluating the grant-making process, including communications with grant applicants before Voting Meeting: Discussion
 - Michael Visconti - improve process
 - Patricia Salomon- brainstorm suggestions singly and meet to discuss.
 - Nicole Romiglio - tighten up the rubric & board priorities
 - Michael Visconti - points system seemed to work well.
 - Bryan Cole - tried point system.
 - Jenny Lyons - personally struggled with rubric
 - Geri Eddins - potentially have voting over two meetings
 - Marcia Macri - letter of venue confirmation should be mandatory
 - Jenny Lyons - on-going agenda topic to keep it fresh
 - Table this discussion to next month - all to bring ideas about process.
- Marcia Macri has declared its her last meeting, as she's uncomfortable with "missing money" per accounting errors discussed in agenda item F. Michael Visconti urged her to reconsider. She remained at the meeting, and continued to vote.
- Independence Day Music Subcommittee:
 - Status of letter: one denied, no other confirmation of responses.
 - VOTE: Ask BOS to include \$5,000 line item in budget - for 4th of July extravaganza:
 - CC supporting effort, as it would bring cultural value to the town.
 - Bryan Cole moved to ask the BOS to include \$5,000 line item in the budget for the 4th of July extravaganza. MCC to endorse the effort as we believe it would bring cultural value to the town, 2nd Nicole Romiglio, vote unanimous
- Public Art Subcommittee:
 - Task Force Proposal submitted to BOS on October 18.
 - Invitation to Attend Downtown Revitalization Committee Meeting (Feb. 12 at 7:00 p.m.) - Geri Eddins to attend.

H. Review Goals for 2020: Discussion

- Finalize the rules and regulations.
- Finalize membership issues.
- Tighten up our priorities; identify underserved/overserved populations
- Add a treasurer
- Continue to seek community input on how to distribute grant money.
- Consider hosting a grant-writing workshop for prospective grant applicants.
 - or powerpoint, or one-page marketing material/how to.
- Work with the Selectmen to advance the creation of a Public Art Policy.
- Work with Claflin Hill to revive the "Independence Day Spectacular."

I. Communications: Internal Email and Press Release

MACC has template press release, Molly distributed to local media today

J. Any Other Business

Geri Eddins: Discussion of interpersonal issues - Advises, please deal with that specific person, or bring to meeting rather than email chains.

Marcia Macri: Needs to be “reply all” to avoid open meeting violations.

Clarify: no discussion via email.

Geri Eddins: Very clearly stated that vague accusations, or arguments via email will not be tolerated.

Jenny Lyons: Vague accusations, slandering are inappropriate especially via an email forum.

Nicole Romiglio: Email discussion is an inappropriate way to handle a concern.

Marcia Macre: Nicole instigated exchange via e-mail.

email chain was read aloud Determined that Marcia did not know Nicole’s name, and was speaking of someone else.

Michael Visconti: Point of discussion - handled wrong.

Nicole Romiglio makes a motion, Jenny Lyons 2nd - Any issues that can not be handled interpersonally or via mediation from the chair, will be addressed via an added as an agenda item or handled individually. Vote: unanimous

Bryan Cole - BVT chalk festival, May 9th, Suicide Prevention/Mental Health Awareness in memory of a student that passed away.

Next Meeting February 18

Meeting closed at 8:39 pm

Meeting minutes approved 2/18. Voted:Unanimously

Standard MCC Calendar

Timeframe	Task
March - April	Seek Community Input.
June	BOS Approves New Appointments and Reappointments.
July	Finalize and Publicize Council Priorities (Post Online by Sept. 1)
August	1) Receive Allocation Amount from MCC. 2) Publicize Grant Program and Distribute Applications.
Sept. – Oct. 15	Accept Grant Applications.
Nov. – Dec.	Review and Approve/Deny Grant Applications.