

Wayland Cultural Council

Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2020

Remote Meeting

Note: In compliance with the March 22, 2020 Massachusetts Office of the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 20, this meeting was livestreamed on local broadcast on WayCam. Public comment was made available via the "hand raise" function on Zoom. The Chair, Rachel Sideman-Kurtz identified by name all Wayland Cultural Council ("WCC") members in attendance (identified below).

Council members in attendance: Rachel Sideman-Kurtz (Chair), Susan Warren, Adam Gutbezahl, Rebecca Ahmed, Lynne Lipcon, Jane Purser, Andrea Blesso, Ashley Fuller, Richard Lee, Louise Reck

Council members not in attendance: Kathy Trogolo

Members of the public in attendance: Jason Adams (Moderator)

Meeting materials: Draft 9/22/2020 minutes; "WCC Mind Meld" Google Document

I. Review & Approve Minutes of 9/22/20

Ms. Lipcon moved to approve the minutes of 9/22/20. Mr. Gutbezahl seconded. The motion passed, 8-0-3, with a roll call vote. Ms. Ahmed – Yes; Ms. Purser – Yes; Mr. Gutbezahl – Yes; Mr. Ahern – Abstain; Ms. Warren – Yes; Ms. Blesso – Abstain; Ms. Fuller – Abstain; Mr. Lee – Yes; Ms. Reck – Yes; Ms. Lipcon – Yes; Ms. Sideman-Kurtz – Yes.

II. Introduction of New Member/Review Roles

Ms. Sideman-Kurtz introduced Ms. Blesso who joined the WCC since last meeting. Ms. Blesso expressed interest in assisting the WCC with social media.

Ms. Sideman-Kurtz discussed future roles and expressed willingness to step aside as chair or become co-chair if anyone is interested in becoming chair or co-chair. Members stated interest in leadership positions, however, reluctance was expressed due to having just recently joined the WCC and still developing understanding of the WCC's functions. Ms. Sideman-Kurtz then explained the various responsibilities of the WCC and the different positions within the WCC.

Mr. Ahern and Mr. Gutbezahl stated they are happy to continue to serve as Treasurer and recording secretary, respectively.

III. Review of Grant Cycle

Ms. Sideman-Kurtz discussed the grant application window and review process. The Massachusetts Cultural Council ("MCC") will send out the "panel book" containing all of the grant applications after December 15, 2020 and through January 3, 2021. The WCC will review the applications on January 12, 2021, and must send denial letters by February 13, 2021.

Ms. Purser, Ms. Blesso, and Ms. Fuller asked questions about the grant review process, including the number of applicants, the methods used for reviewing and considering grant applications. Ms. Sideman-Kurtz and Mr. Gutbezahl mentioned criteria used by previous WCC members.

Ms. Sideman-Kurtz stated the WCC will receive a communal e-mail account. Ms. Blesso, Ms. Fuller, and Mr. Lee offered to assist in managing this e-mail account.

IV. Future Planning

The WCC discussed ideas of topics or events for the upcoming year.

Mr. Ahern recommended looking into whether Wayland has a Town policy on public art. If the Town has such a policy, then the WCC could see what can be done pursuant to that policy. If no policy exists, then the WCC could consider creating that policy. Mr. Gutbezahl seconded Mr. Ahern's sentiments. Ms. Ahmed also was interested in the WCC helping create a Town policy for public art. Ms. Fuller stated she was very interested in creating this policy.

Ms. Purser said she spoke with Mr. Sarkisian, the Town Planner, about adding art along the rail trail, and he said there have been many requests for art and they are not allowing any of them. Mr. Sarkisian said the utilities own the rail trail and it is not a Town decision.

Ms. Sideman-Kurtz and Ms. Fuller expressed interest in having displays of public art. Ms. Purser mentioned a committee in the Town is currently reviewing the Route 20 corridor, and that committee may be a good avenue for looking at a way to incorporate public art in the Town. Ms. Ahmed recommended looking at our surrounding communities and see their approach to public art. Ms. Ahmed agreed to reach out to Luis Cotto of the MCC about resources on this topic. Mr. Gutbezahl offered to reach out to the Town Administrator and members of the Select Board to learn about the Town's current policy with respect to displaying public art.

Members expressed their interest in pursuing the creation of a town-wide policy for displaying public art. Ms. Sideman-Kurtz expressed concern that there may be pushback for implementing a policy. Mr. Lee expressed his reservations about implementing a policy if there is not a direct need for a policy. Mr. Gutbezahl recommended the WCC conduct some sort of survey to obtain community feedback in order to determine what is the Town "need" with respect to art. Ms. Lipcon suggested a virtual event where grantees could discuss their project and invite the public to meet the grantees.

Mr. Gutbezahl suggested he, Mr. Lee, and Ms. Ahmed coordinate between now and the January meeting about holding an open forum discussion and put a call out for public comments and invite people and organizations. The WCC agreed with this plan of action.

V. Adjourn

Mr. Gutbezahl moved to adjourn. Mr. Ahern seconded. The motion passed, 11-0-0, via a roll call vote. Ms. Ahmed – Yes; Ms. Purser – Yes; Mr. Gutbezahl – Yes; Mr. Ahern – Yes; Ms. Warren – Yes; Ms. Blesso – Yes; Ms. Fuller – Yes; Mrs. Reck – Yes; Mr. Lee – Yes; Ms. Lipcon – Yes; Ms. Sideman-Kurtz – Yes.