



FREETOWN CULTURAL COUNCIL

3 North Main Street . P.O. Box 438 . Assonet, MA 02702
508.644.2202 . Fax: 508.644.2183

Minutes of the Cultural Council meeting 10.26.21

Meeting held at Freetown Town Hall, 3 North Main Street, Freetown, MA

4:18PM

Meeting called to order by Mike McCue, Co-Chair
Members present: Mike McCue, John Remedis,
Nicole Davignon, Steven Chandler
Members virtually : Jay and Abby Michaels
Meeting being recorded by Steven Chandler

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Grants

- Submissions for reimbursement have come in the past few months.
- For 2021-2022 season...
 - 14 have been submitted.
 - One in system from Freetown Historical Society but not submitted yet. Chandler emailed them to have them complete the application.
- One hand-written application has been submitted by the Freetown Grange, but we need it electronically. Chandler emailed them to let them know they must do it on the MCC website. Abby will reach out to them.
- Received a request from Fred Thornton of the Mayflower Camerata asking if he can receive the two grants that he extended from 2019 and 2020 as well as the new proposal he submitted this year.
 - Chandler emailed Mina Kim of the MCC and she said it is up to the Council to approve. She does not recommend carrying over grants indefinitely.
 - Michael McCue suggests that because we agreed to extend grant funds from the prior two years, we should not accept a new application until they hold an event and use the prior funds granted.
 - Chandler makes a motion to allow grantees to use prior funds granted but not to accept new applications until those funds have been used to complete the programming for which the funds were awarded. Abby Michaels 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried.

Membership/Volunteers

- Mike McCue reviews new members who have submitted letters of interest/applications.
- Donna Motta has been appointed. Emily-Anne Dors and Jeanine Ludovicz are waiting to be appointed by Board of Selectmen.

Facebook Page/Marketing

- During the last meeting the idea of a FB page was discussed. Mike emailed group examples of neighboring towns FB pages.
- Chandler feels it's a good idea to have a Freetown Cultural Council FB page. Everyone agrees.
- Mike will set up and moderate the FB page; Nicole will also be an admin. Other members of the group who would like to, may also be admins.
- Chandler will set up an Instagram page.
- Abby Michaels makes a motion to create Facebook and Instagram accounts to allow the FCC to get information and events out to the community. John Remedis 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Jay Michaels asks about a Twitter account, but we will start with FB and Insta.

Concerts at Bandstand

- Abby Michaels will look into grants and will put together a proposal.
 - She is concerned about planning events there and getting shut down by the Board of Selectmen due to EEE which had happened in the past.
 - Chandler recommends holding any outdoor concerts and events off peak. April-June and September-November. Abby suggests starting with spring concerts and hold off on doing them in the fall to see how things go.
 - She will send an email for Chandler to share with the Council.
 - Chandler will check on status of the Bandstand restoration.
 - Chandler suggested having students perform which would get parents and more residents involved.
 - Mike McCue would like to ask for an increase in funds from the town for the FY2023 budget. This would allow the FCC to create more community programming. Other towns have healthy budgets which were appropriated by their residents for events and programs that all can enjoy.
 - Mike McCue suggests we use Hathaway Park if the restoration of the Bandstand is not complete by the time concerts begin.
 - A memo will have to go to the BOS letting them know we plan to hold concerts in 2022. They are the ones scheduling park space for events.

Ideas for Future Events/Activities

- Abbey Michaels suggests a senior art show.
 - Chandler asks if the Police Station community room would be a possible venue.
 - Mike McCue doesn't think it would work because other groups use the space and he suggests the Historical Society.
 - We could have awards for the artwork. Abby Michaels suggests polling the community to see if they would like a general exhibit, or, a contest. Chandler says we could include the question in the community outreach questionnaire required by the Mass Cultural Council.
 - Chandler suggests having a show for kids and a show for adults; both could be made up of multiple mediums.

- Mike McCue states this [Ideas for Future Events] could be an ongoing agenda item for each meeting going forward.
- Mike says it would be nice to have a fall or pumpkin festival with vendors who have items for Christmas; pumpkin related foods; pumpkin carving contest; etc. We could have it the weekend before Halloween.
- John Remedis suggests producing a car show (awarding trophies). There are a couple ways to conduct this. Dress the period. John would donate the trophies. He mentions that if we ever need a food truck, he has a contact.
- Abby Michaels makes a motion to get a calendar for the next meeting so we can plan and plot out future events. Chandler 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried. Abby will bring calendar.

Christmas Event and Decorating

- John Ashley generously donated a live tree to be planted and it was installed by the Highway Dept. The bottom four feet has no branches, and it is bare so when the tree grows the space under it will become higher and higher over time.
 - Mike McCue said the spruce tree had white pine at the base and when the Highway Dept got it over to the Bandstand green, they decided it looked weird, so they cut all the white pine branches away. Chandler said it looks like a topiary and because the idea was to let it grow for 10-15 years before replacing it this won't work and will have to be replaced with a cut tree before decorating takes place.
 - Abby Michaels suggests wrapping a bunch of fake presents to fill the space.
 - Chandler states we would need large appliance boxes and Abby suggests attaching wooden pallets and covering them with plastic tablecloths. He suggests building a wooden fence around it to look deliberate. Mike said we could build a box and paint it to look like a gift.
 - Abby Michaels picked one out that looked great but her father was under selling her choice and steered Mike and John Remedis to another tree.
 - Abby has access to some white picket fencing.
 - Put on next agenda to discuss.
- Chandler states that Cheryl suggested we need to replace lights which are incorporated in the greens because many are no longer working.

Halloween

- Chandler states that 200+ goodies bags were stuffed with candy with the help of two firefighters in a little over an hour.
- Fire Dept has activity books they are donating to hand out at the event which is taking place on Halloween day 4-6pm. Masks will be worn as a precaution.

Approve Minutes

- John Remedis made a motion to accept minutes from 9.28.21. Nicole Davignon 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be held on 11.17.21 at 4:15p.m at Town Hall.

John Remedis makes motion to adjourn at 5:16p.m. Chandler 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Steven Chandler', with a long, flowing horizontal line extending to the right.

Steven Chandler, Secretary