



# FREETOWN CULTURAL COUNCIL

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

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## Minutes of the Cultural Council meeting 11.17.21

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

4:17PM Meeting called to order by Mike McCue, Co-Chair  
Members present: Mike McCue and John Remedis, Co-Chairs  
Nicole Davignon; Jay and Abby Michaels;  
Steven Chandler; Emily-Anne  
Meeting being recorded by Steven Chandler

### Halloween

- Recap: Chandler reports that prep went very well, stuffing bags at fire station. Chandler, Mike, Nicole, Ali and Jaqueline were at Elementary School to greet kiddos and hand out candy. A total of six cars come through.
- Low attendance could have been due to flyer not getting to schools, this year's event was on Halloween day.
- Left over candy can be handed out at Christmas Tree Lighting; it won't last until next year.
- Mike says we may not want to do this event next year. Last year the kiddos didn't have trick or treat due to Covid and this year they had trick or treat again
- Nicole recommends joining the Trunk or Treat event next year.
- This event can be revisited next summer/fall.

### Concerts at Bandstand

- Abby Michaels did not apply for a festival grant because she did not have a full budget in hand and didn't want to make up estimated numbers.
- Spoke with Grange about having an event there. If we did our own event in their space, we would have to have insurance. If we partnered with the Grange, we would be covered under their insurance.
- Concerts are on the back burner until next grant cycle.

### Facebook Page

- Michael McCue has FCC Facebook page up and running two days before Halloween. So far there are 47 followers and 43 people liked it.

## **Grants Update**

- There are 14 submissions, but Chandler thinks there may be a few more, he'll have to look. Chandler will email a link to MCC site with sign-in info and explanation of how it works.
- We will meet after tree lighting to review grant submission.
- Received a request for a grant extension from David Bates.
  - Chandler reads email with attached letter. Requesting an extension of the 2020 grant, which had been extended to 2021, which would be for their program in 2022.
- Chandler gives an explanation of the MCC grants to our new member Emily-Anne Dors.
- Abby Michaels makes a motion to allow the David Bates grant to be extended for use in 2022. Chandler 2<sup>nd</sup>. Nicole Davignon abstaining because she works for the library which is partnering with David Bates. Emily-Anne cannot vote until she has been sworn in by Town Clerk. All others in favor. Motion carried.
- At next meeting we can review all grant applications and discuss.
  - Voting should take place in December so that we can have them completed before the January deadline. This will allow us to have them done by end of year and Chandler can get letters out in January.
  - Next meeting December 8<sup>th</sup> at Police Station at 4:15PM; Mike will ask Lu-Ann Souza if we can use the Police Station and their AV equipment.

## **Membership/Volunteers**

- Emily-Anne Dors is in attendance tonight. Jeanine Ludovicz and Donna Motta were not able to make the meeting.
- Mike McCue states that Keith Mello has submitted a letter of interest.
  - Chandler will get a copy of letter from Lu-Ann Souza in Selectmen's office, and he needs to get Keith's email address from Keven Desmarais and update FCC member list.

## **Ideas for Future Events/Activities**

- Abby Michaels suggests planning an art show for May 2022.
  - Mike McCue states that we cannot use Grange Hall because it is not handicap accessible, and there are five steps into Hall.
  - Abby suggests other options...Historical Society or Community Room in Police Station.
  - Police Station may only be available for a single weekend. Artwork would have to be placed on easels and pedestals.
  - Put art show back on agenda for December meeting.
  - Mike McCue suggests that if we get 15 members, we can create a sub-committee to discuss/plan an event. This would allow discussions to take place without having to post a meeting. A sub-committee would then report back to full Board.

## **Christmas Event and Decorating**

- Regarding a date, the past couple years it was on the second weekend in December but there isn't a lot of time to enjoy, and it is usually colder as December rolls on and greater chance of snow. It would be nice to bring it back to the first Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - Set up can be Friday and Saturday.
- Chandler asks Mike McCue to reach out to Timm McIntosh to film and create a video like he did last year, but Timm is working that day.
  - Jay Michaels will create a video of event if we get him photos and video clips.
- We will reach out to Dunkin again and ask for hot chocolate and munchkins. Chandler to create letter and John Remedis will bring to Dunkin home office.
- Mike McCue will put out a call for volunteers to help set up on the Facebook page, etc. This would allow people who may want to get involved but not become members of the Board.
- Chandler will reach out to Ali Golz and see if she will volunteer again.
- Emily-Anne Dors suggests the Honour Society's from schools may send kids to help. Mike McCue will reach out to a teacher he knows at High School.
- Event begins at 5:00pm with people arriving. 6:00pm Santa arrives.
- Decorating:
  - Pre-strung garlands have burned out strands of lights, so we need to have new lights put on. Check bulbs in large strands for tree and replace.
  - Mike McCue may donate extra lights to put on Town Hall and roof of bandstand. He will speak to Jeff Chandler about paying for spotlights on Bandstand that would need to be replaced; it is a facilities expense.
  - Chandler will ask Keven Desmarais to go review what electricity is needed on site.
  - If others would like to purchase items, be sure to purchase through the Town to eliminate paying sales tax. John gets 10% off at Home Depot.
  - Mike McCue makes a motion to have Chandler build a box around base of tree to fill the empty space and allow John Remedis to go with Chandler to purchase the wood needed. Abby Michaels 2<sup>nd</sup>. Emily-Anne Dors abstains. All others in favor. Motion carried.
  - Chandler and John Remedis will get together to determine size of box needed to go around base of tree and will build it.
  - Next year the Freetown Cultural Council will ask for an increase in budget to purchase more decorations for both sides of town. Chandler has done research for some big colourful items to give kiddos a sense of wonder, and help folks get into the holiday spirit.
  - Chandler has reached out to Karen Chace to come tell stories again and she agreed.
- John Remedis makes a motion to let Chandler determine what decorations need replacing and have him purchase the items. Abby Michaels 2<sup>nd</sup>. Emily-Anne Dors abstained. All others in favor. Motion carried.

**Approve Minutes**

- John Remedis made a motion to accept minutes from 10.26.21. Abby Michaels 2<sup>nd</sup>. All who can vote do vote in favor. Motion carried.

**Next Meeting**

- The next meeting will be held on 12.8.21 at 4:15p.m at Freetown Police Station.

Abby Michaels makes motion to adjourn at 5:22p.m. Nicole Davignon 2<sup>nd</sup>. Emily-Anne Dors abstains. All others in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Steven Chandler, Secretary