



FREETOWN CULTURAL COUNCIL

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Cheryl A. Estrella

Minutes of the Cultural Council meeting 10/20/20

Meeting held at Council On Aging, 227 Chace Road, E. Freetown, MA

4:30PM Meeting called to order by Steven Chandler, Secretary
Members present: Paula Charette, John Remedis, Mike McCue, Abby Michaels
Nicole Davignon
Absent: Cheryl Estrella
Meeting being recorded by Steven Chandler

Grant and Extensions FY2020

- Chandler talks about requests for grant extensions due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Abby makes a motion to extend the use of 2020 grants to the 2021 season for all who requested. Paul Charette 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Chandler states that the Old Colony History Museum is planning to continue their Passport to History program until December if Covid-19 does not prevent it.

Halloween Event

- Due to the pandemic kids in Freetown have had to deal with so much this year and with Trick or Treating not happening everywhere we want them to be able to have something fun to participate in. We came up with a Trick or Treat drive thru.
- The event which will be held at the main entrance at the Freetown Elementary School on October 31, 2020.
- We will be handing out goodie bags to kiddos who signed up via the Town website.
- Friday, October 30th we will meet at the fire station #3 on Bullock Road at 12:30pm to stuff the goodie bags.
- At sign up there is an option for receiving candy or toys, just in case kids can't have candy or parents prefer they don't.

Annual Tree Lighting

- Again, due to the pandemic we need to reimagine what this event will look like.
- A tree or trees and the other decorations will be set up by volunteers at the Assonet Village Green & Bandstand on Saturday, December 5th. 9:00am set up time.
- Lori and Keven Desmarais have volunteered to help set up.
- Mike suggests we do a live stream of the tree lighting on December 6th.
 - Perhaps get the schools to have kids make food donations in school and they kids would get tickets for their donation.

- A winner would be drawn before tree lighting and that student could come down and flip the switch. We will look at logistics.
- Chandler will speak to Ali Golz if she has a contact person in the schools.
- Abby suggests a coat drive.

Members and Officer Positions

- John Remedis, Abby Michaels, Nicole Davignon, and Mike McCue have all been appointed by the Board of Selectmen and sworn in by Jackie Brown, Town Clerk.
- Chandler states that Lori Desmarais has rotated off the FCC so the position of Committee Chair is open. He asks if anyone would like to be the Chair. No one is interested.
- Chandler reads information and guidelines provided by Paula regarding the transition of officers and that any member who holds the position as an officer shall remain in their position until a replacement has been nominated and elected. Due to the continued length of time and great commitment that Lori Desmarais has given he does not feel the FCC should hold her to staying on until someone steps up to fill the position of Chair.
- Chandler doesn't mind continuing as Secretary but has too many other commitments in life.

Grants FY2021

- The deadline for the new grant cycle is November 16th.
- We will need to meet and review grant applications after the deadline.
- Paula submitted the Mass Cultural Council's new direction for allowing LCC's to give grant funds directly and without the usual process of spending their own money and then getting reimbursed at a later date.
 - This is in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and challenges that has presented to grantees. "The goal of direct grants is to enhance the LCC more program opportunities by imposing less financial hardship on potential grant recipients and to simplify the payment process for municipalities cultural councils."
 - Chandler states there was a deadline of October 1st. Paula asked to approach the MCC to extend the deadline.
 - Abby talks what if someone dies or doesn't do the program and they've been paid? We'd have to chase the applicant.
 - Paula says that other towns have done it.
 - Michael says that Town Accountant may not agree with giving funds before an event. Chandler will check with Kim.
 - John says that if they can't to a program or event they can apply for extension.

Abby makes motion to adjourn. Chandler 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven Chandler, Secretary