

May 17, 2023

Becket Cultural Council

Minutes May 4, 2023

Members Present: Cathy Terwedow, Shelley Chanler, Sarah Reedy, Lisa Rosier, Tracy Wilson, Andrea Pecor

Absent: Roberta Goldman, Carole Rivel, Jane Markham

Meeting began at 6:08 pm

The minutes from the 1/18/23 meeting were accepted as written.

Smart Simple Update: as of 5/3/23 two-factor authentication will be phased in.

Treasurer report: Drea Pecor: Final payout status:

No change since last meeting. Grantees that had not submitted reimbursement requests were contacted by Drea. No one responded. Therefore, there is \$1200 total remaining from the 2022 grant cycle. We voted unanimously to unencumber the funds.

Sarah Reedy will make one last attempt to contact the Becket/Washington School as they sent a letter (undated and unsigned) requesting that their \$1500 grant from the 2021 Mystic Trip that was cancelled due to the pandemic, be made available.

Cathy wrote a description of the BCC for the Town of Becket's ATM warrant, requesting funding support from Becket to supplement the funds we receive from the state (\$5500). It was included in the Warrant and is listed with other requests under Free Cash. The description will be handed out at Becket's town meeting and the warrant will be voted on by residents May 15, 2023.

Discussion began regarding what we will fund and how we will track those funds if we receive money from the town budget, which runs from July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024. Our focus will be on year-round residents and on increasing funds to Becket grantees that had their 2023 budget requests cut due to lack of sufficient funds from the state. Any additional funds a Becket grantee receives must be spent and reimbursed by June 30, 2024.

Some suggestions for spending additional funds:

Fully fund Becket grantees. That would total \$1600 - \$1700 of the \$3000 requested from the town. The plan would be to go back to those grantees that were not fully funded and let them know we have additional funds. Let them know these additional funds must be spent by June 30, 2024. Sarah Reedy will draft the letter.

Cathy proposed a virtual meeting with other Berkshire County Cultural Councils to share tips and tricks. She and Drea reached out to some Hilltown councils early this year, and they are interested. Our MCC rep, Carolyn Cole, is in favor of regional councils and said the MCC will be looking into it more this coming year. Currently, one regional council in Northern Berkshires covers 11 towns to work together and pool their funding.

We discussed that any town we might pool funding with should be Washington. Further discussions on this idea will be for another meeting.

Other updates:

After six continuous years, council members must step down from the BCC. This affects Roberta Goldman, who will cycle off.

Tracy Wilson will not stay on for another 3-year cycle.

Shelley Chanler and Cathy Terwedow will re-up for another 3 years.

We need to expand the committee membership. Some interest by Becket musician, Michael Thomas. Cathy will follow up.

Meeting adjourned 7:18pm

Minutes submitted by Shelley Chanler