

New Marlborough Cultural Council Meeting April 8th 2021

A meeting of the NMCC Cultural Council was held via Zoom on April 8, 2021. The meeting commenced at 4:15. Present were Chair Nancy Barbe, Treasurer, Richard Long, Secretary Margie Shapiro, Alice Fahs, Joyce Hackett, Linda Fass, Marjorie Robbins, Wendy Miller, Sue Cohen, Eugene Cleary, Holly Valente and guests, Louise Yohalem and Dr. John Schreiber.

The meeting commenced with a presentation to the board by Dr. John Schreiber. Dr. Schreiber informed the board of the current covid situation both locally and statewide. He updated us on current state policies and regulations and possible projections for the future. Dr. Schreiber indicated that it is possible that by August, 75% of the adult population could be fully vaccinated but that it is likely that mask wearing and three -foot social distancing would likely still be in effect.

After Dr. Schreiber left the meeting, a discussion followed on how we might go ahead with Burritt Day and still be in keeping with state guidelines and regulations. The Board agreed to look for innovative and creative ways to celebrate the town and to have a site meeting at the Village Green next week to help plan how best to utilize the space.

The minutes for the February 11th meeting were unanimously approved.

Richard had previously sent out copies of the treasurer's report but when it came up for consideration, he had already left the meeting. A vote to approve the report was put off until the next meeting.

Nancy informed us that we were awarded a \$500 Festival Grant by the state.

In other business, Nancy informed us that cultural councils are not permitted to have elected officials as board members. Therefore, Richard can no longer serve on the board or as treasurer. It is hoped that he can stay on in a position as bookkeeper or financial advisor while not being a council member. The current law also applies to Wendy who is a tax assessor.

Senator Adam Hind has introduced a bill in the legislature that would amend the law to allow elected officials in certain positions other than selectmen to serve on the boards of cultural councils. Wendy will send details of the bill. Council members will call and write letters to Representative Smitty Pignatelli to ask that he support the bill.

Nancy brought up the Rites of Passage Project and explained how she responded to Pooja Prema's letter in which Ms. Prema questioned our rejection of her grant application. In her response letter to Ms. Prema, Nancy gave the rules for reconsideration and explained that she

had been contacted by Ms. Prema well beyond the deadline and therefore we could not reconsider her application. Although there is no obligation to do so, Joyce suggested that she reach out to Pooja Prema to mend fences. No decision was made.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Shapiro