

## **Southborough Arts Council Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** September 16, 2025

**Time:** 7:04 PM

**Location:** Cordaville Hall (Senior Center)

**Attendees:** Catherine Weber, Jane Gates, Liz Kesselman, Nicole Boloz, Rajani Kumari, and Kate Heusner

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### **1. Call to Order and Approval of May Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM, following a motion from Nicole Boloz, seconded by Liz Kesselman.

The May meeting minutes were approved by a motion from Catherine Weber and seconded by Jane Gates.

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### **2. Chair Report**

The Chair provided the following updates:

- **Summer Success:** The "Art on the Trails" event was a successful end to the summer, with a high attendance.
- **Recruitment:** The committee has three potential new members who have expressed interest. One has already submitted an application and was recommended to the Select Board. Two other applications are pending.
- **Staggered Terms:** The terms for Nicole, Rajani, and the Chair are ending, but they hope to stay on for continuity. Liz confirmed her term ends on October 2nd and she will not be continuing on the committee. Jane's term is expected to conclude next year.
- **Grant Applications:** The grant cycle for the Local Cultural Council (LCC) has opened. So far, three applications have been received, with two being from new applicants. The Chair noted a concern about potential technical issues with the grant application website and requested that any such issues be reported. The deadline for the LCC grant is October 15th. The committee will continue to promote the grant opportunity before the deadline.

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### **3. Treasurer's Report**

Rajani provided the following financial updates:

- **Financial Report:** The financial report is being prepared, with an October 9th deadline.
- **Grant Payments:** \$2,885 has been paid to five grantees.
- **Remaining Funds:** \$3,296 is available for the remaining grant recipients.
- **New Funding:** The committee has \$6,400 from a state grant and an estimated \$4,000 from local funds for next year.
- **Mail:** Rajani and another attendee mentioned that there was very little mail over the summer.

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## 4. Fall Initiatives and Other Business

- **Heritage Day (October 13th):**
  - The committee discussed having a booth at Heritage Day, but the Chair will not be able to attend as she will be on the West Coast for work.
  - Jane has volunteered to lead the Heritage Day initiative and will partner with another member if needed, though she expressed some personal health concerns.
  - The committee has \$500 in its budget for this initiative.
  - Liz suggested using the funds for a rock-painting project, a concept that began during COVID, where Kindness Rocks would be painted and placed around town.
  - The group agreed to table any major, new project ideas for Heritage Day and instead focus on something simpler, like the rock-painting project. They decided to save more ambitious projects, like the utility box art, for the spring.
- **Grant Program Expansion:**
  - The Chair proposed using approximately \$2,000 of the council's funds to create a second grant opportunity, separate from the LCC grant.
  - This new "Moonshot" grant would fund creative projects that benefit the town. The committee's role would be to define the criteria for the grant and serve as the funding body, while the artists would be responsible for the project execution.
  - Jane has information from Franklin's Cultural Council, which has a similar program, and will share the criteria to help in the planning.
  - The Chair will draft the grant criteria and present it to the Select Board for approval.
- **Other Potential Project Ideas:**
  - Suggestions were made for future projects, including a town amphitheater behind Flag School near the Southborough Family Services building.
  - It was noted that the town's Tricentennial Committee has funding and is looking for projects, so a partnership could be beneficial.

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## 5. Adjournment

The meeting was formally adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Documents used at the meeting:

No documents used.