

Sandisfield Cultural Council Meeting
Thursday, August 25, 2022 at 6:00pm via Zoom

MINUTES

Members present: Karema Almeida, Connie Canty, Jennifer Hibbins, Jennifer Lenzi

Members absent: Ellen Croibier, Rosanne Hoekstra, Barbara Kershner

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm. The first item was to accept the minutes from the last meeting on March 11, 2022. Connie Canty motioned to accept and Karema Almeida seconded. All voted in favor.

The Council members discussed the results of the Community Input Survey, which yielded 31 responses. The majority of respondents wanted the Sandisfield Cultural Council (SCC) to continue to support the Sandisfield Arts Center, library, and school, as well as programs for families and seniors. Most respondents were aware of SCC grants and our funding priorities. Many hear about cultural activities from *The Sandisfield Times*, town website, and Connect Sandisfield Facebook page. Respondents overwhelmingly recommended supporting community-wide gatherings such as festivals, parades, concerts and plays for future funding.

Given the response to community-wide gatherings in the survey, the Council members voted unanimously to modify our funding priorities as such: *“The venue should reach a large group in the community. Community-wide gatherings are desired. School children and activities related to learning are a high priority, as well as events for senior citizens in town. Local presenters dealing with the arts, humanities and sciences are encouraged.”* Jen H. will update in the Smart Simple system.

Jen H. submitted an article on grant applications for the September issue of *The Sandisfield Times*. She will also email local organizations like the library and school. Posting on the Town website and Connect Sandisfield was also discussed. Connie is part of the Council on Aging and the Historical Society. Jen H. will help her with the new Smart Simple system so those groups can apply.

Karema asked about a grant application for the preservation of a local church. Jen H. will send her contact info for our new Mass Cultural Council (MCC) Program Officer, Carolyn Cole, to clarify eligibility.

Jen Lenzi will meet with the Town Accountant next month to review the Account Form from MCC. She asked about the cut-off date for submitting reimbursement forms. Jen H. thinks it is December 31 but will confirm with MCC and let Jen know so she can reach out to any grantees who have not yet submitted.

Our FY23 allocation from MCC is \$5,500, plus we will receive \$500 from the Town of Sandisfield. There are also leftover funds from the Memorial Day parade. Jen Lenzi will get the total amount available for grantmaking in the upcoming cycle.

It was determined that we do not need another meeting until after grant applications have closed. We will plan to meet in November to vote on applications. The meeting ended at 6:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Hibbins, Chair