

## **Bolton Cultural Council Meeting Minutes**

**January 26, 2021**

**5:00 pm**

**Via Zoom**

Attendees:

Chair: Chris Sterling

Members: Pat Bensetler, Clare Moses, Tim Fiehler, Maureen Strapko, Nicole Thomas, Jem Mix

The minutes from the October meeting were approved.

Among the grant requests were 5 "orphan requests", proposals for performances that were not sponsored by any organization in town. Chris contacted several people at NRHS, Joel Bates at Sawyer, and Heather at the Senior Center to find out if there was any interest in any of the programs. There was no response from the high school or Sawyer, and Heather was not interested in adding any of the programs. The group agreed that we would not fund orphan programs.

Recognizing that this is an unusual grant cycle because of COVID, the group discussed giving some organizations more than they requested, to support ongoing expenses for established organizations that might be struggling without ticket sales and other sources of income, especially those that we could only give token amounts in prior years. (Chris confirmed with the Mass Cultural Council that grant guidelines allow us to do this.)

After discussion, twelve grants totaling \$5,100 (our entire budget) were approved.

Symphony Pro Musica	\$400
Bolton Parks and Rec	750
Nashoba Valley Concert Band	400
Clear Path for Veterans	500
Virginia Thurston Healing Garden	600
Kirk Whipple	300
Sounds of Stow	350
Fitchburg Art Museum	350

John Root	350
Discovery Museum	300
Bolton and Harvard Open Studios	500
Nashoba Area Social Justice Alliance	300

The following proposals were denied:

Elijah T. Grasshopper and Friends  
 New Repertory Theatre – Romeo and Juliet  
 Chainsaws, Cheeseburgers and Rock and Roll  
 Henry the Juggler  
 Hip Hop Dance Exercise for Seniors  
 African Television Network of New England

Denial letters will be sent this week. Denied applicants have 15 days to request reconsideration. Award letters will be sent after the reconsideration process, if necessary, is complete.

Current Officers Chris Sterling (chair), Clare Moses (secretary), and Maureen Strapko (treasurer) were reelected for one year terms.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Clare Moses