

Nahant Cultural Council Minutes August 1, 2024

Present: Peg Curran, Vi Patek, David Sparr, Elizabeth Stubbs, Ken Turino, Robert Wilson

Absent: Tanya Blaich

1. Minutes from last meeting accepted: Motion: Turino. Seconded: Sparr
2. Photo Exhibition: Complete success. Not many children visited. Received \$647.00 in donations from guests at exhibition. Suggestions for next event: sign in sheet/guest book; try to guide people to website. Consider a QR code. Robert's online photos of the show a big help for those who did not attend. Robert will do online posting of photos of the exhibition.
3. Council Membership: Leighton O'Connor interested in joining us, but our maximum membership is seven. Peg will check to see if he could become a volunteer/subcommittee member. Terms: we can serve two consecutive 3 year terms. Vi and Tanya will be out in June 2025 after three years and can re-up then. Peg has one more year in her current term ending June 2026, after which she would like to step down as Chair. Motion for Vi to become Treasurer by David and seconded by Peg. All in favor. Motion for Elizabeth to become Secretary by David and seconded by Robert. All in favor.
4. Vote on method of reimbursement of expenses: Motion to continue with reimbursement method by Vi and seconded by Elizabeth. All in favor.
5. Guidelines for applicants: 1. Applications must be from a Nahant resident or a Nahant organization; applications from a non-resident will only be reviewed if accompanied by a letter of support from a Nahant organization which acknowledges knowledge of the applicant and confidence in the success of the proposed program. 2. All events take place in Nahant. 3. Encourage additional funding in an application. 4. Financial and planning details must be provided. 5. Those who have repeatedly applied for grants will have lower priority for acceptance. 6. Credit must always be given to both Nahant Cultural Council and Mass Cultural Council.
6. Priorities: 1. Keep door open to all applicants. There was a discussion of how to interpret "science" in the MA description of categories. 2. Events should be community wide and for all ages. 3. Diversity is important to programs. 4. Artistic merit to be evaluated by our Council.
7. Retroactivity: Motion to not participate in retroactive funding by Vi. Seconded by Elizabeth. All in favor.
8. General concerns: Surveys are important to help us plan funding - we did them at two Town fairs and at the photo exhibition. The photo exhibition yielded 67% interested in history, which was to be expected given the number of historical photos. We discussed having historical tour of interiors of historical houses, for example the Wilson houses. We also learned that attendees showed interest in the visual arts. We could put a survey form on our website.
9. Finding applicants for grants: ask people we know. Ken knows a playwright who did a 30 minute play connected to the Hopper exhibit with 2 actors. He will explore one done on Winslow Homer in Cape Ann. He will find out costs, etc. He remembers St. Botolph Club putting on a play with members acting which was a lot of fun. Vi is interested in seeing local people acting. Idea of having local people reading poetry, including celebrities. David is part of a new group called the SmackDabs – a 6 piece band which would be a

great event. They could even play for a dance – they did one in Kittery, ME. He volunteered to do all the technical stuff. We would need to work out the conflict-of-interest question – Peg will work on that. Elizabeth interested in having an art gallery and talked about one in Natick. We also mentioned Ellingwood Chapel standing unused as a venue - a public space being wasted.

10. Applications announcement on September 1.

Next meeting:

Thursday, September 26 at 7 p.m. (zoom or in person?)

Submitted by Patek on 8/5/2024.

Respectfully submitted to Town Clerk by Curran on 7/15/2025.