The Groton Cultural Council (GCC) held its publicly announced meeting on Wednesday, June 28, 2023as a hybrid meeting with attendance in-person and via ZOOM. The meeting was recorded by ZOOM software. Present were members Nancy Muller, Harris McWade, and Judith Romatelli. Also in attendance was former GCC member David Zeiler who has agreed to serve in an advisor capacity. Christine Brooks, Deb Busser, and Kathleen Phelps were absent. Co-Chairs Harris McWade and Judith Romatelli opened the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

**Minutes**

Although minutes of the December 2022, April 2023, and May 2023 have been supplied via e-mail to all GCC members, a quorum was not present to vote approval of said minutes for public posting. This will be sought as an agenda item of business at the next meeting.

**Meeting Times**

It was generally agreed that a regular meeting time needs to be established to maximize attendance, and that it should be the 2nd Wednesday of every month, skipping August, in the evening beginning at 7:00 p.m. It was recommended that going forward, a “welcome packet” that outlines all responsibilities of GCC members be provided to new members as a means of onboarding.

**Adding Student Member(s)**Following up on discussion at the May meeting, Romatelli proposed that local high school student Olive Cote be admitted as a student member of the GCC. McWade added that she must apply like all prospective members. McWade suggested that a second student also be named to the Council. It is believed that by having youth on the GCC, we may have more grant requests that primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12), as the state application recognizes. She will work to identify a second such student considered qualified. It was noted there are 13 approved positions, only six of which are currently filled. Zeiler commented that new blood typically infuses new vitality for a dynamic, working group.

Muller expressed concern that she has still not heard from all members to complete contact information on a GCC roster. There was a brief discussion about staggered terms. Muller noted that precise term dates for every member are posted on the Town of Groton website, the source she and Deb Busser used.

McWade offered to finish filling in the blanks, providing the telephone number for Christine Brooks.

**Report on Publicity**

Muller reported that she has interviewed and drafted articles in the form of Letters to the Editor for publication by The Groton Herald on the selected organizations agreed to at the May meeting; namely: the Healing Garden, the Nashoba Valley Chorale, and the Nashoba Valley Artists Guild. The first two have been submitted to the paper’s editor/publisher. She plans to submit the third article as soon as edits are finalized, possibly next week. (The paper is on vacation for the first two weeks of July, it was noted.) She is in touch with the fourth selected grantee – The Sizer Foundation on behalf of The Parker School for the performance of Studs Turkel’s ***Working***. She hopes to schedule the interview and complete the article for submission by mid-July.

**Grants in the FY2023-2024**

Romatelli offered to draft a news release regarding the upcoming opportunity to apply for new grants in the FY2023-2034 year. First, she will follow-up with the Massachusetts Cultural Council to confirm opening and closing dates for online submissions and obtain the URL link for the revised application form. There was general discussion that grant proposals should aim to benefit the Groton community first and foremost and, in particular, fund the underserved, the disadvantaged, the LGBTQ residents, children, and people of color. The comment was made that we GCC members should serve as “mentors” to encourage the timely completion of applications for grants, such as for enrichment programs in local schools.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Muller, Secretary

June 29, 2023