The Groton Local Cultural Council (LCC) held its publicly announced meeting on Friday, January 12, 2024,at the Groton Town Hall in a reserved, first floor meeting room. In attendance were Co-Chair Judith Romatelli, Co-Chair Harris McWade, and members Nancy Muller and Kathleen Phelps, forming a quorum. Absent members were Christine Brooks, Deb Busser, and Leslie Lathrop. Also absent was the non-voting GDHS student representative Olive Coté.

Romatelli opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and presided throughout. The first agenda item was approval of minutes of the November and December 2023 meetings, previously distributed electronically to all members. Romatelli moved approval, seconded by Phelps. The minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.

The primary item of business was explained by Treasurer Phelps, who said that the State of Massachusetts had recently revised our financial report because of an error in a past year. Because of actual past spending, we have to cut $656 further from our available funds for FY24 grants to be distributed. This amount assumes that the Council sets aside no funds for administrative purposes in FY24 to be used for publicity and non-food event expenses to spotlight new, selected grantees, as previously approved by the group in the Fall of 2023. As a result, only $6,734 is available rather than the $7,390 reported and approved at the previous month’s meeting. Accordingly, reductions in seven grants were made to equal the $656 adjustment. Phelps made a motion that the Council accept the revision made by the State and approve the resulting $6,734 total, as adjusted. Romatelli seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Muller will proceed with haste to submit details of awarded grantees to the State and issue individual notices to each approved grantee prior to the January 17th deadline.

The group briefly discussed meeting in February and agreed on the usual date/time – the second Tuesday of the month, or February 13, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Romatelli said she will reserve a meeting room at the Groton Public Library and submit an agenda for timely posting by the Town of Groton, including discussion of plans for an upcoming publicity event in the Spring. In addition, she will invite a longstanding member of the Acton Cultural Council to meet with us to share its approach to grantmaking, publicity to encourage grant proposals, etc. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Muller, Secretary