The scheduled meeting of the Groton Cultural Council (GCC) was called to order by Chair Judy Romatelli on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 7:04 p.m. at the Groton Public Library. Present were Judy Romatelli, Nancy Muller (left at 7:25 p.m.), Cyndy Davidson, Leslie Lathrop, Haley Traverse (arriving at 7:15 p.m.), Olive Cote, and Kathleen Phelps. Absent was Harris McWade.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the April 15, 2025 meeting were approved unanimously, under a motion made by Phelps and seconded by Romatelli.

**Plans for the Informational Session**

Davidson said she secured approval of the Vestry of First Parish Church of Groton to hold our Informational Meeting for 2025-2026 prospective grant applicants on Monday, September 15th. Muller suggested that we invite several grant recipients from the current FY to speak briefly about their funded event/program and their experience with the application process. It was agreed by the group to select three such individuals representing different genres of performing or applied arts or other qualifying cultural/science category. The goal is to encourage more applicants, particularly those in Groton.

It was generally agreed to keep the event simple, without food. Muller offered to bring beverages. Cote offered to design a pamphlet to enable the public to find out about the Info Session and hand them out at the June 23rd Special Town Meeting, as well as at Periwinkle’s booth at the Groton Farmer’s Market.

Muller reported that she had analyzed all those who were awarded a grant in FY2024 to see if they had applied again in FY2025. Somewhat surprisingly, more than one-fourth did not reapply for a similar or different event/program. Muller suggested that to encourage attendees at the upcoming Info Session, we should analyze the past several years of grant recipients, as we have their contact details in the Massachusetts Cultural Council database accessible online. Both Lathrop and Phelps emphasized we should restrict this invitation to those local to Groton. Muller said that we should seek to grow that database. It can help word-of-mouth encouragement of others, too. Muller asked Lathrop to assist her in this retrospective search.

Discussion shifted to more ideas for publicity of the event and about the Council itself. Cote will investigate the pricing difference of printing a postcard versus a pamphlet that could house general information about the Council’s mission. Romatelli suggested the creation of a paper bookmark that could specifically address the upcoming Info Session in September. Creating a FaceBook event for the September 16th Session was also mentioned, as well as placing an announcement at the Groton Visitor Center. Romatelli said she will inquire at *The Groton Herald* to determine its willingness to run a pro bono ad or at least a public notice of the date. The group believes that it can use earmarked “administrative funds” – up to 5% of its budget – for printing such materials. All details will be finalized at the next meeting of the Council scheduled on Tuesday, August 19th.

**Speaking at the Groton Council of Not-for-Profit (NFP) Organizations**

Lathrop said that she and Muller had attended the morning meeting at the Nashua River Watershed Association headquarters on May 15th of the Groton Council of NFP Organizations to speak briefly about the Groton Cultural Council and its volunteer work. She pointed out there are at least 12 NFP groups in this organization whose missions could potentially qualify for a grant from our Council.

**New Members**

Romatelli shared a recent conversation she has had with Elani Coetzer expressing interest in becoming a member of the Council. She must complete the application form to be appointed by the Groton Select Board.

**Other Business/Announcements**

It was announced that the town of Carlisle is sponsoring a Music Festival we might consider attending, as a possible model for a future such event in Groton.

Lathrop mentioned that there is a Big Band Concert on June 15th at the Groton Hill Music Center that should be entertaining for attendees.

Romatelli asked if there was interest by the group in an informal social. Lathrop offered to host it at her home. No date was discussed.

There being no further agenda items, Romatelli motioned the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Cote, and the meeting was closed at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cyndy Davidson and Nancy Muller

June 8, 2025