

Newbury Cultural Council Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. ET

Council Member Attendees:

Robin Lawson, Chair
Amy Thurlow, Treasurer
Michelle Ouellette, Secretary
Margaret Russell
Minnie Flanagan
Lloyd Hamovit
Jeanne Anderson

Guests – Alicia Greco, Select Board member, and Cindy Currier, Director, Council on Aging

Call to order – Robin Lawson

Approval of 4-21-2021 meeting minutes - Voted to approve

Welcome prospective new Council members – Michelle and Jeanne had reached out to two new prospects who expressed interest. However, timing just did not work for them at the present time. We still need a chair and ideally, a few new members.

Discuss town survey results –

- Amy presented the aggregated report of results she recently compiled of the recent NCC survey to residents.
- There were 182 respondents, the majority over 60 years.
- Survey results were highly informative and will be helpful for next year's grant-application review process in determining priorities when deciding on awards.
- In this context, the group discussed ideas for better publicizing grantees' various activities and potential channels for doing that. While grantees are responsible for their own promotion, there is a clear desire among Council members to support them and keep residents better informed.
- For next year, it was suggested to include NES and Triton to broaden the demographics, in addition to including it in the tax bill mailing. Cindy also offered to include the survey in the COA newsletter.
- Alicia and Cindy were invited to listen in on the results, as NCC felt it would be beneficial for them to hear. Alicia encouraged NCC members to review the town demographics via clear.gov.
- Alicia offered to send the survey results to other town boards for their review and possible collaboration (Library, Recreation, Historical Commission, etc.).
- Robin will participate in the MCC Essex County virtual meeting May 20 and will ask Mina about how NCC goes about reporting completion of the annual requirement.

Update on Newbury Town Day – The upcoming planning session for Newbury Town Day is Saturday, May 22 11:00am-1:00pm at NES gym.

Request for grant modification from Theater in the Open – Council unanimously voted to approve the requested grant modification for Theater in the Open's utilization of funds as

requested via email. Due to a cast member illness, they needed to change the show originally proposed.

Update on Council-specific social media for community engagement – Alicia/Cindy suggested the use of the town's social media to promote NCC events vs. having our own FB and Instagram pages. Michelle offered to reach out to Matt to further discuss.

Update on term expirations (6/30/21): Minnie, Lloyd, Margaret, Robin – Robin learned that all board reappointments take place in June. Letters of intent to reapply need to be submitted to Julie at Town Hall by May 27th to be considered for the Select Board meeting, either on the 2nd or 4th Tuesday in June.

Adjourn – 7:10pm ET

Next Meeting – September 8th at 6:00pm ET

This is Robin's last meeting as Council Chair. Many thanks for all of your work, support, and dedication to the NCC and the town!