



# TOWN OF MEDWAY

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS



Medway Town Hall

155 Village Street – Medway, MA 02053

## Medway Cultural Council

[medwayculturalcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:medwayculturalcouncil@gmail.com)

### MINUTES

Tuesday, November 21, 2023 @ 7:00 pm

Medway Public Library, Cole Room

**Members Attended:** Becky Atwood, Stuthi Balaji (via Zoom), Cyndy Ellis, Phil Giangarra, Judith Moffatt, Amna Saeed-Kothe, Hazel Warnick, Jordan Warnick

**Members Absent:** Angelica Crosby, Jyoti Ranjan, Valerie Shinas

**Community Members Present:** Palak Yadav

**Recording Secretary:** Marianne Boynton

Mr. Warnick called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. The meeting was in person and began with 7 members (6 in person and 1 via Zoom).

#### 1) Approval of Minutes from November 7, 2023

Mr. Giangarra made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 7 with no corrections. Ms. Ellis seconded the motion. Approved vote, 7-0.

#### 2) Officer's Reports

##### a. Treasurer's Report - Hazel Warnick

Ms. Warnick sent the Treasurer's Report via email prior to the meeting. Ms. Warnick noted that the report includes all pending payments that she has information for. There is a balance of state funds of \$93.78. For Festival Funds, after pending payments, there is still a balance of \$119.

Ms. Ellis made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and Ms. Sayeed-Kothe seconded the motion. Approved unanimous vote.

##### b. Chair's Report - Jordan Warnick

**Introduction of Student Applicant** – Palak Yadav is Medway resident and a junior at Mass Academy in Worcester. Mr. Warnick introduced her to the members in attendance. Ms. Yadav organized a group of students at Medway High School who felt their voices weren't being heard

and wants to participate in the Cultural Council to involve more students in the events and to include their voices in the community. She feels that many of the Cultural Council events are great and wants to get more students involved.

Ms. Moffatt made a motion for Palak Yadav to be a non-voting Volunteer Student Member of the Medway Cultural Council and Ms. Atwood seconded the motion. The vote for her membership was unanimous.

**Utility Boxes** – Mr. Warnick has not heard back about whether DPW has sealed the electrical boxes.

**Medway Porchfest** – Mr. Warnick noted that he hasn't heard back from the two gentlemen who presented the idea at a previous meeting. He did attend an event in another neighbourhood and one of the musicians was interested in Medway's event. Mr. Warnick will pass along his information.

**December meetings** – The next two meetings are scheduled for Dec 5 and Dec 19. Mr. Warnick asked about whether the members felt that one or either of these meetings were needed. The final grant decisions will not happen until January. There is also a conflict with the Town of Medway Volunteer Appreciation party on Dec 5. The members all agreed to cancel both the Dec 5 and Dec 19 meetings. If any decisions are needed, Mr. Warnick can schedule a zoom meeting.

Ms. Balaji noted that the festival grants are due in March and will work with Ms. Moffatt (Pixie Festival), Porchfest and possibly the science fair that Ms. Yadav mentioned.

An internal application for the support of the Pixie Festival came directly to Medway Cultural Council (not via MaCC) to partially fund the event. Due to a submission error, it was not on the original list of grant applications in Smart Simple. This will be addressed in January.

**c. Secretary's Report - Amna Sayeed-Kothe**

Agendas, Minutes & Zoom: Ms. Sayeed-Kothe started using the Medway Cultural Council Gmail to send agenda and minutes. She does not monitor the account, but Mr. Warnick does and can forward information to members, if needed. Mr. Warnick is in the process of changing over the contact information/billing for the MedCC Zoom account, Ms. Hachenburg is going to continue to manage the account.

**3. Members Reports and Responsibilities**

**a. Becky Atwood – sculpture**

Ms. Atwood summarized that this is a project to get public art in Medway. MedCC has commissioned an artist to make a bronze sculpture at the Medway Public Library. Not all of the artist's time is funded; Ms. Atwood and Ms. Hachenburg are looking for grants to cover the artist's time as well as paying the models. The supplies are funded. There is another sculpture to be done by the same artist when the library project is done. The later art will be on the Medway trail.

b. Stuthi Balaji - Diwali festival and High Tea fundraiser

Ms. Balaji noted that there is no update on the Hight Tea Fundraiser, the committee will be working more in Dec & Jan. The Diwali Festival, funded in part by a MaCC Festival Grant, was amazing with 520 registered guests and 420 showed up. They are thinking of changing the format next year to charge a nominal fee to try and avoid no-shows. Ms. Saeed-Kothe suggested a confirmation email a few days before. There was a lot of positive feedback from sponsors and vendors and the volunteers were amazing. The members suggested to have a future discussion of *RSVPify* being used for future Cultural Council events. Someone also suggested providing a certificate of participation for performers and volunteers. They have hesitated to outsource the food in the past due to minimums, but given the attendance this year, she feels that they could outsource next year.

c. Angelica Crosby – Community Farm, Middle School Painting

As Ms. Crosby was not present, it was related that the Community Farm is closing for the season this weekend. Hipswayers (MedCC/LCC-funded) appeared there recently.

It was noted that there is a request from the elementary school for a mural in the area where the students go outside.

d. Cyndi Ellis (with Karyl Wong) – LCC Grants

Ms. Ellis was able to go on Smart Simple and indicate which grants were not funded. After 15 days, notification will go out from MaCC.

e. Phil Giangarra – Zoom billing

Mr. Giangarra has not received his most recent credit card statement to confirm whether the fees are still being charged to him. Mr. Warnick is in the process of changing the billing on the account.

f. Judith Moffatt (with Stuthi Balaji) – Pixie Festival funding

Ms. Moffatt is going to apply for Mass Festival Funding. The new town funds will be available July 1 and the event is not until the end of July, so can use town funding if Festival Funds don't come through.

g. Jyoti Ranjan – Community Science, STARS residency (no report as Ms. Ranjan did not attend the meeting).

h. Valerie Shinas (with Judith Moffatt) - Social Media, Artist Spotlight, Community Newsletter, Facebook (not available due to technical problems)

Ms. Moffatt is waiting for information from Ms. Buckley about electrical box artists and would like to possibly create a video about the project for the website. Ms. Sayeed-Kothe suggested that they can stand near their painted box and video themselves answering 2-3 questions that

we provided. Barry from Cable Access has some footage from Pixie festival. Ms. Balaji asked if there is room for new members. She knows someone interested who is very good at creating videos. Ms. Warnick states that they need to submit a letter of interest.

**4. Other Business** - None

**Adjourn**

Ms Warnick made a motion to adjourn at 8:05. Ms. Moffatt seconded the motion. Approved in a unanimous vote.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

2024: Jan 2 and 16, Feb 6 and 20, March 5 and 19, April 2 and 16, May 7 and 21, June 4 and 18