

Spencer Cultural Council Minutes
August 31, 2016
Town Hall
Called to order: 7 p.m.

Present: Elizabeth Small (president), Diane Johnson (treasurer), Rachel Faugno (secretary), Louise Small, Linda Stanley. Former member Joanie Eccleston attended as a member of the public.

Council Membership: Louise Small and Linda Stanley announced their resignation from the Council, effective Sept. 1, 2016. The Council decided to announce the need for new members in upcoming press releases about the grant cycle. Elizabeth will check with Charlotte Cutter regarding the minimum number of members the Council is required to have and also how many members are needed to form a quorum when membership drops below nine.

Treasurer's Report: Diane reported that the Council has received nine requests for reimbursement for the 2016 grant cycle, totaling \$2,850. She has yet to receive reimbursement requests for nine other projects the Council funded. Recipients have 18 months to submit requests for reimbursement.

2017 Application Process: Elizabeth reported that the Council has received \$6,100 for the 2017 grant cycle. The Council voted to require applicants to use the online form available on the Spencer town website. Paper applications will not be accepted. The deadline for applications is October 17.

President's Position: Elizabeth announced that she would like to step down as president. She requested that members consider taking on that role.

Council Priorities: The Council discussed ways to get community input to make sure grants support local needs and interests. Members agreed to create a short survey. Elizabeth will look into putting the survey online and also ask the town clerk if it would be possible to include it in upcoming town mailings. Rachel suggested putting the survey in the Spencer New Leader, requesting respondents to fill it out and return it to the Town Hall. The Council did not make a final decision about the best way to distribute the survey. Suggested wording is:

Spencer Cultural Council Community Input Survey

Each year, the Spencer Cultural Council receives funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to support a wide variety of projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities in Spencer. The Spencer Cultural Council is seeking resident input to help us set our funding priorities for the next three years. Please take a moment to complete this survey and return it to the Spencer Cultural Council at the Town Hall. You may also complete this survey online at <XXX>. Thank you for your participation!

What should be the Council's funding priorities? Please check three:

Projects led by local artists
Arts in the schools
Youth arts programs outside of school
Field trips for students to museums or performances
Projects celebrating local history
Local cable programming
Public events like concerts, festivals, plays
Support for community arts and cultural organizations
Nature, science, environmental education projects
Restoration or preservation projects
Other idea or suggestion

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.