

Sheffield Cultural Council
Minutes of the October 24, 2014, meeting
[approved 11/20/2014]

Present: Trudy Miller, Thad Kubis, David Reed, Sally Cook, Russ Stein, Wendy Casey, Kathie Ness

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by chair Trudy Miller, who introduced the new members, Thad Kubis and Russ Stein. Some additions were made to the list of "areas of interest" on the committee's contact list.

Officers for the 2014-2015 year were elected: Trudy Miller, Chair and Assistant Treasurer; Kathie Ness, Secretary; Sally Cook, Assistant Treasurer.

Trudy Miller led a discussion about the Public Input Survey, to take place in the spring of 2015 as required by the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC). The 2011 survey is available and could be reused. Various venues for distributing the surveys were suggested: a handout at the annual town meeting in May, publication in the *Sheffield Times*, posters, the town website, the library, and a town e-mail blast were some of the ideas. The purpose of the survey is to assess the interests of the community and to see if the Cultural Council is responding appropriately. A corollary is to publicize the mission of the Cultural Council.

Trudy Miller and Thad Kubis described a webinar conducted by the MCC on advocating for municipal funds in order to increase the local Cultural Council's budget. The webinar provided materials and testimony from two Massachusetts towns that have successfully advocated for municipal funds. If the Sheffield committee were to pursue this, it would have to be an item on the Town Warrant, for vote at the annual town meeting; this would probably occur in 2016, not 2015, because of the several steps required (presentation to selectmen, application to finance committee, and finally the town vote). Various approaches were discussed: having Cultural Council grant recipients describe their experience at a selectmen's meeting; raising the profile of the Cultural Council at events funded by the Council; and establishing a Sheffield Cultural Council Facebook page.

There were no applications for extensions on 2014 grants.

The 2015 applications (a total of 46) were distributed to the committee members for review. The date for deliberations and voting on the applications was set for Thursday, November 20, 2014, at 6 p.m., in the Carlton French Meeting Room (assuming it is available).

There were no public comments. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katherine G. Ness, Secretary