

## Maynard Cultural Council Minutes

January 8, 2015, 7:00 pm

Maynard Town Building, Lower Level Conference Room

Present: Joyce Dwyer, Gail Erwin, Erik Hansen, Tim Hess, Ron Labbe, Reya Stevens, Heather Western

Co-Chairperson, Tim Hess, opened the meeting at 7:07 pm.

The Maynard Cultural Council officially welcomed Heather Western as an official member and as our Co-Chair with Tim Hess.

We began with a discussion regarding the number of slots available on the Maynard Cultural Council. Our number is currently at seven and it was agreed that seemed a good number in terms of our work. We need to let Becky Mosca know the number.

We discussed the on-line basic training on the state's website.

We tried to get connected to the town's wifi during the meeting and to the state's Mass. Cultural Council and it wasn't working. It hampered doing some group work with Reya Stevens, who is trying to complete a remaining piece of our Maynard Cultural Council's annual report, due in about a week. In the end, Reya will contact our state council contact and try later to locate the Toolbox on the state's website.

Gail Erwin reported on her meeting with Andrew Scribner-McLean regarding the Cultural District application process. He expects that we, the Cultural Council, will be heading up the next step or steps in the Cultural District designation application process. The next step is to gather an Advisory Group together to determine the structure and the details of what the Cultural District in Maynard could look like. Gail indicated that Andrew Scribner-McLean had just two names that had come forward from his article in the Beacon soliciting members for this Advisory Group—Jan Rosenberg and Denise Shea.

Elizabeth Milligan, our former Chairperson, had contacted the following people, before she resigned, to be on an Advisory Committee: Jason Weeks, Lee Caras, Priscilla Cotter, Jean D'Amico, Erik Hansen, Roy Helander, David Marks and Jero Nesson. Jero Nesson has since retired from Director of ArtSpace—Maynard, so he won't be part of this as of now.

We discussed how it might work for our Partners to be part of the Advisory Group and for us as members of the Cultural Council to be part of this Advisory Group. We feel a responsibility to get the ball rolling on this but it is a burden to be part of many meetings, so we need more discussion on the

balance of this. We do plan to have an “extra” meeting in late January on Thursday, the 29<sup>th</sup>, to try to get a head start on going through a Cultural District application to get a better handle on what we face on Maynard’s application. After that we will try to develop a structure and see how groups might form to see how Maynard’s Cultural District might look. We want this done before we return to talking with Andrew Scribner-McLean. Gail said there is some money that we could access for some aspects of this whole process—perhaps for completing the application or some other purpose.

Gail Erwin questioned how much we can take on, but we agreed we do need to do it. Tim Hess felt we need to carefully compose this Advisory Committee and review the Cultural District application to get more familiar with it. Ron Labbe expressed some reservations. Gail said that the State Cultural Council will help us get through this long process by telling us what remains to be corrected or clarified or added. Gail indicated that Meri Jenkins suggested we look at Natick’s application, feeling it related to Maynard. Tim felt that we need to look for models in these other applications to help us shape our process. We need the vision from this to help us recruit people for our committees that would then feed into the Advisory Council.

We, the Cultural Council, will be the Planning Group to get the ball rolling. We need to make this happen. We need to develop the “story” of Maynard for purposes of this Cultural District application.

We need the applications to review before our next meeting. Joyce needs to secure a meeting room for the January 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. We need to develop a mailing/contact list. Elizabeth Milligan gave Andrew Scribner-McLean a list of people. Our Partners can go on the list. We’ll need to seek others that we feel belong on the list.

Gail Erwin also met with the Town Accountant, Mike Guzzo, regarding a \$25 bill for an ad for the Public Hearing. It still needs to be figured out if the Cultural Council will be paying this bill or the town.

The grant letters were reviewed. The unapproved grant letters went out at the end of December. The accepted grant letters will go out on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January.

Our meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Joyce Dwyer*

Secretary, Maynard Cultural Council