

Minutes - DRAFT
Montague Cultural Council
Sunday, May 25, 2025 at 11am
Virtual

<https://meet.google.com/zdv-teva-yyt>

Votes were taken

Present: Kathy Lynch, Deborah Frenkel, Jon-Marc Seimon and Maggie Martin

Absent: James Mussoni and Jasper Adams

1. Chairperson opens meeting: 11:02 am
2. Approval of 7/12/28/24, 1/26/25 and 4/26/25 Minutes
 - a. Motion to Approve: Deborah , Second: Jon-Marc –
Vote: Approved Unanimous
3. FY25 Grant Cycle Update: Good Music Makes Good
Neighbors not accepting grant – they applied by accident and do not have a program this year. We will re-grant their \$1,000.00. In our last meeting we voted to deny Millers Falls Block Party to substantially change their program; therefore we will re-grant their \$1,000.00. This year, in the interest of less cumbersome accounting and to better comply with Mass Cultural recommendations, we have a deadline of June 1st for grantees to accept awards. After several reminders, we are still waiting to receive three agreements. Maggie will send another reminder.

Kathy suggests Maggie reach out to Mass Cultural and see if we can re-grant the unclaimed funds to increase funding during this FY25 cycle for various grantees. Also, if holding over funds reduces the cultural council grant award for the next cycle.

4. Kathy is planning on sending in a resignation letter rather than completing her term at the end of June. She feels it is an important step in making the town administrators understand that by failing to address our committee's request to be included in the FY26 budget (among other things), they have been disrespectful of our committee and the work we have done for the betterment of this community.

Maggie notes that Angelica Desroches, the new town account, mentioned that before planning how to receive supplemental funding from the town for FY27, it is important we understand the different and more complicated accounting structure for monies allocated through the town budget. Funding in that way would require an entirely separate accounting system based on the fiscal year. (In that way, we have unwittingly “dodged a bullet” by receiving our FY26 money from the discretionary funds this year.)

Kathy suggests Maggie reach out to Mass Cultural and see if they have recommendation for methods of municipal funding.

5. Transition and New Members – Maggie is going to reach out to Mass Cultural and copy James, Jasper and Jon-Marc on the email. This email will be a request of a general virtual training session. Maggie and Jon-Marc will meet so that Maggie can start passing off some Secretary / Treasurer knowledge before the end of June. Kathy and Maggie will both make themselves available after June to provide information as needed. There seems to have been some sort of “Introductory Packet” for new members in the past. This may reside in our former google drive. We will look for it there.

Maggie will send an email with a list of prospective council members. Current council members are encouraged to add names to the list. Also, it is suggested that some sort of Job Description including qualities and skills be created and posted in such places as Montague Resists and facebook. It seems like this should be left to the charge of the “3Js” as they are the new backbone of the committee.

6. Maggie is going to:
 - a. Send email to current council members regarding prospective member list / search
 - b. Email Mass Cultural and copy 3Js
 - i. Can we re-grant uncollected grant money during this fy25 cycle?
 - ii. Do uncollected funds impact our Mass Cultural Award for next Granting Cycle?
 - iii. Can we arrange a virtual training session for 3Js and later for new council members?
 - c. Reach out to Dave Hanson – retiring Montague Center Fire Chief for new contact info for reserving meeting room
7. Motion to adjourn: Deborah , Second: Jon-Marc
Vote: Approved Unanimous
8. Meeting adjourned by Kathy Lynch at 11:53am