

**Wakefield Cultural Council**

**Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 7:00 pm**

**Meeting Location: Virtually Through Zoom setup and posted by Town of Wakefield**

**Members Present:** Caroline Lieber, Welcome, Kathleen Cain, Sarah Guerin, Andy Levine and Colleen Getty

**Members Apologies:** Jamie Hale

**Agenda Item #1: Covid-19 Reconsiderations for Projects**

**Discussion:** Human Rights Commission and Youth Orchestra both reached out to the WCC to ask about changes in grant awards due to Covid-19 shutdowns and cancellations of events that were planned. Sarah was in favor of being as lenient as possible due to the difficulties many area artists and art organizations are experiencing because of the shutdowns. She mentioned the city of Lynn as being a good example of a precedent. Colleen agreed and mentioned the WCC's past allowances for groups that were not able to follow through with exact projects or events, but that made changes and still worked toward their goal of bringing art to the community. Andy liked the Waltham letter that was offered as an example. All members supported a proactive approach that involved drafting a letter based on examples provided to send to grant recipients so that they were not left wondering what to do and what we were planning to allow. Caroline spoke about some of the difficulties of, for example, the youth orchestra which could no longer charge tuition and had members not practicing and therefore not prepared to put on a concert and so simultaneously not sure how to bring the same artistic outreach to the community due to the domino effect of the shutdowns on so many organizations. We decided we did not want to keep having to meet for each new change, but agreed that after several responses come in and if there are any that seem a large departure from the original event/outreach to the community that it may be worth reconvening to discuss the changes, but that as a whole our group would like to continue to support art individuals and organizations that are now having difficulty finding funding.

**Action:** Colleen will draft a letter based on examples, leaving it broad, including a specific timeline which was decided to be "by December 1<sup>st</sup>" to send out to recipients via email directly. We will also include an invitation to send anything in writing, visual or video format that they would like to update us on their organization or whatever they would like to share with us to post and help shine a spotlight on them in lieu of our cancelled reception which usually takes place in May at ACE. Andy posted a link for individual and organization financial relief through the MCC on our facebook page because the due date is tomorrow.

**Next Meeting:** Unscheduled currently, but one will be planned if/when we need to make any decisions on grant projects or events that are markedly different than the original proposed grant application outlined.

**Minutes Prepared By:** Colleen Getty