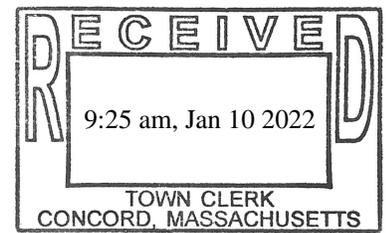


## Concord Cultural Council Meeting Minutes

for December 8, 2021 live meeting at the Hunt Gym 90 Stowe Street



Members present: Tom Martin and Betsy Levinson, co-chairs, Terry Yanulavich, Hilary Taylor, and Tooy Rogers, secretary. Leli Sudler not present.

Call to order at 6:05 Pm. Tom had brought exquisite cupcakes to share with the appreciative council members.

This evening's agenda:

- Call to Order
- Approve November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 minutes
- Review all applications for 2021-2022 grant cycle
- Schedule future meeting dates
- Other business
- Adjourn

We voted to approve the minutes for the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Tooy will send them to the town clerk at a new email: [meetings@concordma.gov](mailto:meetings@concordma.gov).

Tom had brought beautiful cupcakes from a select bakery in Georgetown, DC. Tom Martin sets a high and delicious standard of leadership.

The council had received 30 grant applications this cycle - a bit higher than usual due to COVID and the inability of many applicants in 2021 to accomplish their offerings.

Three of the grants were denied as they did not follow grant application rules - specifically all three did not have additional funding: Cycle of Memory, Documentary by Alex Leff, Interactive Recital by Andrew Harms, and Songs and Stories of the Highwayman by Matt York.

One group, Kammerwerke, Inc had two applications before the Council. Tom Martin explained that one, the Double Wind Quintet chair sponsorship, was carried over from 2021 (COVID-Related) and that the MCC had recommended the Concord Council accept that request rather than carry it over into the next cycle, which will be complicated. The board voted to approve the last year Kemmerwerke grant request of \$500.

Another request, the Elijah T. Grasshopper puppet show by Robert Zammarchi, had requested full funding from the council (no additional funding as the grant provisions require), but Mr. Zammarchi informed the board that he in fact had received additional funding from the Concord Free Public Library, but neglected to include that in the budget portion of his grant application. Tom Martin verified this and the council included Elijah T. Grasshopper in its consideration.

Hilary Taylor arrived around 5:50 pm having been on another town-related Zoom meeting. Betsy and Tom filled her in on the meeting activities so far, adding that next year, due to the disruption of COVID-19, we may have both more applications and more money - grant

money from the state MCC and from the Town of Concord (that we were unable to spend during COVID).

Tom also discussed briefly that the MCC website has been upgraded and that there are differences that will take some practice and adjustment to get used to.

Tom had created a careful and thorough spreadsheet of the grand application requests -

The numbers breakdown for the 2021 grants through the CCC is as follows:

Total Requests:	\$21,900
Denied requests:	<u>\$ 3,250</u>
Total for Approval:	\$18,650

Monies available to grant:

MCC:	\$6,500
Town of Concord:	<u>\$2,000</u> (This budget is given for Concord resident grants or programs that specifically target Concord)
Total:	\$8,500

We discussed the applications. There was some question about the Clear Path for Veterans of New England project to provide ukulele and guitar lessons. Their project seemed expensive, and their application was less developed - less professional - than many others. However, while this was their first time applying to the Council, their project seemed worthy, and we approved a proportional allotment.

There was also some discussion about the application from the Fitchburg Art Museum juried show - being rather far from Concord. However, the Museum had included in their application that a Concord artist had been a winner in a previous such juried show. The Council approved a proportional grant of \$250.

The Council members felt that across the board, the applications were very good, and all were deserving of whatever grants we could give them within our budget. We voted on and approved the funding for the approved applications.

Then we discussed who would write the acceptance letters. Terry and Hilary will be writing the acceptance letters. We have a form letter that they can use for this. They should write the email letters, and then hold them to be mailed out until after December 31, to allow time for the MCC to approve our recommendations.

Next year's grant process will be complicated because of the 2 COVID-19 years just past. There are unspent monies and grant projects that applicants have been unable to carry out. The CCC should gird our loins to be prepared for the next grant cycle.

The council voted on and unanimously approved the funding approach proposed by Tom. We will fund the 27 qualifying grant applications to the extent of our budget.

We discussed the logistics of after we send out our acceptance letters in January. We have a final reimbursement form that we need to send to the Town Accountant to enable the funds to go to the grant recipients. This form needs two signers, and we discussed how to accomplish that without actually having to schedule a meeting.

Finally, we discussed ways to find new members for the Concord Cultural Council. We all agreed to look for good candidates.

Tonight was Terry Yanulavich's last meeting on the CCC - she has served 6 years with the Council. Tonight's was her last meeting. Thank you, Terry, for your humor and quiet competence during your six years on the Council. What would Concord, and towns like Concord, do without the volunteer efforts of people like Terry Yanulavich?

After the goodbyes, we voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:15pm.