

Watertown Cultural Council Minutes

November 12, 2025

6:00-8:30pm, Watertown City Hall 3rd floor Meeting Room

Present: Nick Haddad, Morgan Henderson, Lawrence Kessenich, Elektra Newman, Trisha O'Connell, Greg Papasian, Phyllis Perrone, Lois Pond, Meg Ramsdell, Angela Tramontano, Nerida White, Rebekah Zincavage

Absent: Sally Young

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm with a quorum present.

1. Minutes

- October 2025 minutes were approved: Morgan approved, Greg seconded, all in favor

2. Partnership with River of Light

- Liz Helfer spoke about the River of Light event and the WCC partnership
- PACC is requesting funding from WCC; members will discuss as part of the grant process

3. Review of WCC F26 grants

- Lois went through each grant individually and started with a vote before moving to discussion, members were reminded that grants must serve the Watertown community or be set in Watertown
- Morgan kept track of funds allocated as each proposal was reviewed
- Members agreed that WCC is less interested in grants held at private places for a limited number of people.
- All members present contributed to the discussion and vote for each grant proposal, except for three member recusals due to potential conflict of interest. These members did not participate in the discussion or vote for those grants:
 - Morgan: recused from New Voices, Enduring Promises: Becoming American
 - Phyllis: recused from Watertown Passport: A Guide to Watertown's Historic Houses
 - Greg: recused from Conversations on Photography

4. Post review process

- Lois will enter all decisions into MCC grants website
- MCC will notify grantees whose proposals were declined and will inform Lois of any appeals. WCC will discuss appeals at December meeting if needed.

- Members will choose 2-3 projects to take on as liaison at December meeting and will send letters and forms to their grantees in January.

5. River of Light partnership in the future

- Members expressed the need for more information about the partnership with River of Light and expectations from WCC in the future regarding funding
- Lois will discuss partnership with Liz after the FY26 grant application process is complete

6. With no other discussion items, Lois proposed to adjourn the meeting and cancel the meeting scheduled for November 13 as grant decisions were completed, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,

-Angela Tramontano, secretary