

**MINUTES OF
SPECIAL MEETING
GLASS TOWN CULTURAL DISTRICT STEERING COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 2, 2023
ZOOM – 11:15 A.M.**

Present: Charleen Johnson, Jeanne Prendergast, Diane Scharf, Rob Vinciguerra,
Ralph Vitacco
Absent: Paula Johnson, Joanne Lamothe, Lee Repetto, Anne Scott-Putney
Guest: Mary Childs from the Sandwich Glass Museum

Call to Order: Chair Jeanne Prendergast called the meeting to order at 11:17 a.m.

Mr. Timothy Mahoney, Sandwich resident, joined the meeting to discuss a Woods Hole study group. He was informed the meeting was a specially called meeting to discuss one specific subject and was invited to join us at a regularly scheduled monthly meeting, the next being February 15 in person in the MacKnight Room at the Library at 3:30 p.m.

Chair Jeanne Prendergast explained the purpose of this special meeting was to discuss requests received from the Town Hall and the Glass Museum for Letters of Support as part of their applications for an MCC facilities grant.

Jeanne prefaced the discussion by reporting on her communication with Carolyn Cole, Program Officer, Cultural Districts & Local Cultural Councils, for the MCC. Ms. Cole's emailed response to Jeanne:

“As we discussed, I just want to reiterate how pivotal a role a Cultural District can play within a city/town in regard to cultural and community preservation. As I see in Glass Town Cultural District's original designation application file, the Town of Sandwich and the Glass Museum are listed as collaborative partners in your district, integral to its success. We look to representatives of our districts as local cultural sector champions and encourage them to utilize this formal designation in a way that is most supportive and empowering of their community. What better way to reciprocate the designation support you received from these entities than with a formal letter encouraging their current and ongoing endeavors.

“Thank you for your equitable and inclusive approach to supporting your local entities and creative organizations in a way that can prove truly beneficial to all.”

First request: from Heather Harper for the Town Hall, requesting funds for repairs to the lower level of the old Town Hall to make it more suitable for re-use by other town groups, repairs costing no less than \$1.5M.

TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF SANDWICH

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Ralph Vitacco made a motion that the requested Letter of Support on behalf of the Town Hall be implemented. The motion was seconded by Rob Vinciguerra. The Committee members in attendance – Jeanne Prendergast, Charleen Johnson and Diane Scharf – approved the motion. The request was approved unanimously. Heather Harper will be so notified by return email, with a signed copy of the Letter of Support.

Second request: from Ed Collupy, Jay Weber and John Kennan seeking a Letter of Support from the Glass Town Cultural District Steering Committee for the Glass Museum's application to the MCC's facilities grant. Jeanne reiterated Ms. Cole's statement that it is our responsibility to support not one, but all, requests. In discussion, Rob Vinciguerra commented that "They are in our district. They need help. We should help them." Ralph Vitacco commented: "The Glass Museum has been a supporter of the GTCD since the beginning. We need to support them." Diane Scharf commented: "Writing two letters is like writing no letters. They negate each other." Jeanne commented that both groups could receive funding. Diane countered that supporting both would take away from one. Ralph commented "Supporting one does not detract from another. Each group will be reviewed on their own individual merits. There are a number of factors on which they will be rated." Guest Mary Childs commented that the Glass Museum is in dire need of major structural upgrading in order to keep the museum open. Ralph Vitacco made a motion authorizing Chairperson Jeanne Prendergast to sign the Letter of Support for and on behalf of the Glass Town Cultural District. The motion was seconded by Rob Vinciguerra. Voted in favor: Charleen Johnson and Jeanne Prendergast, along with aforesaid Rob Vinciguerra and Ralph Vitacco. Opposed vote: Diane Scharf. Motion passed by majority vote. Charleen was instructed to submit the signed Letter of Support by email directly to the MCC Facilities Fund Administrators c/o Jay Paget and Miranda Cook, with copies to Messrs. Jay Weber, John Kennan and Ed Collupy of the Glass Museum. Following the vote, Diane thanked the Committee for giving her time to voice her objections. After the vote, Rob agreed with Diane that, in the future, we should know the specifics of projects before endorsing. Ralph agreed and cited an example of Heritage bringing specifics of a project when needing a Town endorsement.

Jeanne thanked Ralph for hosting the Zoom meeting and Charleen for taking care of the legal procedures and distributing paperwork to all Committee members.

Rob Vinciguerra then made a motion that the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Ralph Vitacco; all voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:42.

Respectfully submitted,



Charleen L. Johnson
Secretary