



Minutes for October 26, 2021

RSC Representatives present: Anne Slugg, Chair (Sudbury), Emma Lord (NPS), Amber Carr (SVT), Ron Chick (Framingham), Christine Dugan (Lincoln-Alt), Alison Field-Juma (OARS), Marlies Henderson (Billerica), Tom Sciacca (Wayland), Eric Simms (Wayland-Alt)

RSC Representatives absent: Bill Fadden (Framingham-Alt), Ralph Hammond (Bedford), Linh Phu (USFWS), Joseph Piantedosi (Bedford-Alt), Trek Reef (Billerica-Alt), David Witherbee (Concord)

7:02 pm Welcome and September Meeting Minutes

Ms. Slugg asked for comments on the October minutes. Ms. Field-Juma offered one correction. Ms. Slugg's motion that the corrected October minutes be approved passed unanimously.

7:05 pm 2022 Community Grant Proposals

The Council agreed to discuss each of the Community grant proposals in turn and then make decisions on which ones should be fully or partially funded.

The Concord Museum's request of \$4,800 towards staff time to document 3,000 local artifacts from the First Peoples of Musketaquid was discussed first. Two proposals from the Framingham Conservation Commission were then considered. One proposal requested \$6,500 for benches and bike racks along the Levee Trail Link in Saxonville and reconstruction of the Stapleton School Outdoor Amphitheater. The second proposal was in the amount of \$966.24 for stormwater management modeling software. The group then looked at a proposal in the amount of \$10,000 from the Framingham Centre Common Cultural District to fund a public art project of sculptures by local artists. The City of Framingham submitted a proposal with a budget of \$6,350 to sponsor a guest speaker for the high school's Environmental Club. The Council looked at the Hudson Conservation Commission's proposal requesting \$10,000 for riverbank and riparian buffer planting and soil restoration along Hudson's Assabet Riverwalk. The Lincoln Conservation Department requested \$2,900 to purchase two Enviroscope watershed models to be shared among community groups in Lincoln and surrounding towns. The Massachusetts Environmental Research Alliance, Inc. (MERA) requested \$9,960 for quarterly testing of PFAS chemicals at four locations along the Sudbury River in Wayland. The Middlesex Canal Association requested \$10,000 for a door, and the required masonry, which would open onto the observation deck along the river at the new Middlesex Canal Visitor Center and Museum. OARS submitted one request for \$3,900 to update and print 5,000 maps for the Assabet River. An expanded proposal to include updating and printing maps for both the Assabet and Sudbury Rivers at a total cost of \$7,490 was also considered.

8:50 pm

After deliberation on each of the proposals, the Council agreed to fully fund the updating and printing of OARS' updated Assabet and Sudbury river maps. Lincoln was awarded \$1,450 for one Enviroscope

model. The Council will verify that the Enviroscope model that the RSC funded for Framingham is being made available to surrounding towns. The Council agreed to fund \$5,000 of the Hudson Riverwalk project. Ms. Field-Juma offered to meet with the Hudson group to clarify details of the native species to be planted and to discuss the invasive species they are meant to discourage. Mr. Chick offered to contact and encourage the Framingham Environmental Club to submit a reworked proposal which would include more specificity on the speakers being considered. The RSC agreed to fund \$5,000 towards improvements along Framingham's Levee Trail Link and the reconstruction of the amphitheater. It fully funded Framingham's purchase of 2NDNATURE stormwater management modeling software. The Concord Museum grant for documenting First People of Musketaquid artifacts was fully funded. The Council agreed to continue discussion of Framingham Centre Common Cultural District's grant at November's meeting. The Council voted to fully fund MERA's PFAS testing. Ms. Field-Juma noted that MERA has not yet received 501(c)(3) status, which precludes the Council from awarding it money. Mr. Sciacca offered to contact MERA to discuss a collaboration with OARS so that the work could be carried out. It was decided that the Middlesex Canal Visitor Center and Museum grant proposal would not be funded due to delays, including obtaining a building permit, which could jeopardize completion of the work by the Council's August 2022 deadline.

9:18 pm

Ms. Slugg motioned to approve \$34,666.24 in grant funding for this cycle. Ms. Henderson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

9:20 pm

Ms. Field-Juma has been participating regularly with the Wild & Scenic Rivers Coalition, a national organization working to protect and defend existing and potential Wild & Scenic Rivers. Ms. Henderson motioned to appoint Ms. Field-Juma as the SuAsCo representative to this group, Mr. Chick seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The Council thanked Ms. Field-Juma for her advocacy on the national level to benefit the SuAsCo.

9:21 pm

Ms. Slugg adjourned the meeting.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Christine Dugan