

**Northborough Scholarship Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** Thursday July 28, 2022

**Time:** 6:30 pm

**Place:** Northborough Town Hall, Conference Room C

**In attendance:** Liz Nolan, Vikram Verma, Chandra Vora, Kerry Thornton-Genova

**Members absent:** Christy Renzullo

**Open meeting start time:** 6:30 pm

**Meeting end time:** 7:51 pm

**Meeting minutes:**

6:30 pm 1. Call to order

6:31 pm 2. Roll call and introductions of new members

- a. Liz Nolan, Chandra Vora, Vikram Verma, and Kerry Thornton-Genova present
- b. Christy Renzullo absent
- c. One position still open on committee

6:34 pm 3. Meeting minutes from May 3rd meeting presented and approved by all present

6:35 pm 4. Open questions for new (and returning) members

- a. Question raised of how money is currently raised by this committee; as all members are relatively new, it was discussed how previous money had been raised primarily by donations (tax form has optional donation section) and through the Northboro Applefest
- b. Question raised about if the town contributes to the scholarship fund, and if not, could the question of a town contribution be brought to the annual town meeting

6:39 pm 5. Discussion of current balance of funds: \$306.49

6:41 pm 6. Question brought forth: How do we fundraise?

- a. Question of reaching out to businesses was brought up; concern that local businesses are already asked to contribute to many causes
- b. Question of how do we make the community aware that this committee exists
  - i. Website is needed; right now all that exists is a page on the town website
  - ii. Facebook page is needed
- c. Question of how do we publicize, if we have an online presence this can help with outreach
- d. Question of what has happened at previous years Applefests; it is understood that there was previously a bounce house, but that might be too much in terms of overhead costs; discussion of if we can have a stall and some type of activity to accompany that stall and fundraise there

- e. Question of how much we give in a scholarship; should we have several smaller scholarships or fewer larger scholarships?

6:54 pm 7. Discussion of the process of application

- a. This year there was confusion with the process; the high school seemed to automate the process, and some students submitted directly to the committee and others went through their guidance office
- b. While we tried to make a more specific essay question, due to the confusion, our Northboro-specific question got lost in the process
- c. Question of if we should have the students go through the high school guidance office or not
- d. Question put forth of if we can streamline the process by making an online form application that encompasses what information that we, as a Northboro-specific scholarship, are focused on

7:18 pm 8. Eligibility

- a. Question put forth of who is eligible; agreed that it is open to all Northboro residents who are high school seniors
- b. Discussion of the need to publicize to all area high schools (Algonquin, Assabet, St Johns, AMSA, Mass Acad, etc.)

7: 24 pm 9. Further discussion of fundraising as our main challenge

- a. Possible fundraising ideas include:
  - i. Recycling drives
  - ii. Major company donations
  - iii. Mini-Photo sessions
  - iv. Northboro calendar
  - v. Pickleball tournament
- b. Question raised of if we have 501(c)3 status; can those that donate claim tax exemption?

7: 29 pm 10. Discussion of identity

- a. Who are we as a committee and what do we represent?
- b. What is the foundation that we are building on? (Who started the committee, and why?)

7: 30 pm 11. Items of action for next meeting:

- a. Kerry Thornton-Genova to create a mockup of an online form that students could use to submit their application
- b. Liz Nolan to look into the creation of this committee and possible facebook site

7: 42 pm 12. Officer election; approved by all in attendance, the officer positions are as follows:

- a. Chair: Liz Nolan
- b. Treasurer: Chandra Vora

c. Secretary: Kerry Thornton-Genova

7:45 pm 13. Discussion of next meeting time; next meeting to be Wednesday, August 24th;  
Chair to determine location

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, August 24th, 2022

Meeting adjourned 7:51 pm

Respectfully submitted by

Kerry Thornton-Genova, secretary