**Scituate Sister City Ireland, West Cork, Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 14, 2018**

**Scituate Public Library, Small Conference Room**

**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Members present: Brenda O’Connor, Chair; Siobhán Hunter, Vice Chair; Kevin Callanan; Maureen Dinsmore; Audrey Donovan; RJ Dwyer; Richard Hebert; Patrice Maye; Peter Mehegan; John Sullivan; Christine Walsh

Members excused: John Danehy; Brian Houlihan; Pat Jacquart; Carol Sullivan-Hanley

Guests:

1. **Agenda**

The committee voted unanimously in favor of accepting the agenda.

1. **Treasurer Report**

The delegation visit from West Cork depleted our coffers. Actual delegation costs exceeded projections. Unexpected overages to be recouped in 2019.

1. **Minutes**

The committee unanimously approved the minutes from the September 5, 2018 meeting.

1. **Fundraising**

Given the Treasurer’s Report, immediate fundraising is pivotal. The committee discussed the following:

* Scituate Rotary. The committee plans to apply for a grant to fund the student exchange program.
* Foreign Film Festival. As part of the Scituate Sister City Partnership, this committee will partner with the Sucy-en-Brie committee on a film festival. The films will include French and Irish films and air on the following dates: December 13; January 10; February 7; March 7. Admission will cost $15 for the film and reception; $10 for film only. Proceeds will be split 50/50 between West Cork and Sucy-en-Brie partnerships.
* Lecture Series. Possible lecture by Catherine Shannon, with suggested donations of $10/attendee. Venue and time of day TBD.
* Reprise of successful corned beef dinner at Tinker’s Son.
* Fundraiser / Annual Meeting.
	+ Special event to be held at Scituate Beach Association, with music provided by Doc Ellis Band (both venue and band donated by Christine Walsh).
	+ Event could honor a person or benefactor.
* Giving Circle. Renewals begin in January.
* Irish cookbook to include recipes from West Cork restaurants and treasured family recipes.
1. **Emigrant Grant (Global Irish Foundation)**

At the suggestion of Irish Consul General, Shane Cahill, the committee is considering applying for a grant from Global Irish Foundation: <https://www.dfa.ie/global-irish/support-overseas/emigrant-support-programme/>

* The online grant process is open during the month of January.
* The committee discussed merits of applying in January 2019 or delaying until January 2020.
* Application could be for creating establishing a South Shore Heritage Trail, but this will require a lot of partnerships with other town, and there was a question of management feasibility. All agreed that the application would be more manageable if the focus was on Scituate only.
* Another application suggestion was emulating the West Cork Food Festival.
1. **Marketing/Sales “Irish Heritage Pendants”**
* Maureen Dinsmore put together a marketing overview for making the triquestra pins and pendants feasible/profitable.
* She proposed a higher purchase price; promoting for holiday gift-giving (Christmas and St. Patrick’s Day); and showcasing at craft fairs (i.e. Friends of Scituate Seniors) to generate pre-sales for St. Patrick’s Day.
1. **Partnership Community Activities**

The committee discussed introducing or reprising the following community-building activities to promote the partnership:

* Irish Bread for Senior Center
* Book Club
* Set Dancing Event
* St. Patrick’s Day float
1. **Delegation Visit to Ireland**

The committee needs to plan another delegation visit to West Cork. West Cork delegates would like to meet our elected officials, none of whom were able to travel in April 2018.

* The timing could be tricky. Selectmen indicated interest in April vacation 2019, but that’s the week leading into Easter, and not a good time for West Cork hosts. Other considerations would be early April or late April/early May.
* Delegation invitations should be extended to Ben from NOAA, senator Patrick O’Connor, and Representative Patrick Kearney.
1. **Committee Meeting Schedule**

Meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will take place at the Scituate Public Library, Large Conference Room.

* Wednesday, December 4, 7:00PM

The meeting adjourned at 8:30p.m.