Policy on Community Support Organizations

Each year the budget commit and the Select board recommend that the town vote to provide taxpayer dollars to a limited number of community support organizations; typically non-profits or organizations that represent specific community events. While the goals of these organizations are always laudable, some organizations are appropriate for taxpayer support and some are not. The purpose of this policy is to define guidelines for determining that choice.

Budget Guidelines:

1. A significant portion, if not the majority, of the organization’s benefits should be focused on the Boothbay Region. We will favor local organizations over regional and national organizations.
2. The organization should provide direct or indirect benefits to a significant number of Boothbay Harbor taxpayers. The organization should benefit the economy, health care, education, welfare, or safety of the residents of the area, and/or provide a service not addressed by the municipality, and/or enhance the sense of community and wellbeing in the town.
3. Unless there have been material changes in an organization’s makeup, operating rules, etc. we will not alter funding (up or down) by more than 20% per year (so they can anticipate relatively stable funding).
4. We will not fund new applications (organizations that have not been previously funded) in this category, unless the circumstances are unique.
5. Boothbay Harbor taxpayer funding must not be the only source of funding for the organization (they should raise some of their own funding).