



TOWN OF  
**NEWMARKET**  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

## **Arts & Tourism Commission**

September 26, 2022 at 7:00pm

Town Hall

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**Approved October 4, 2022**

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm.

In attendance: Val Toukatly, Debra Smith, Pam Myers-Morgan, Morgan Santos, Megan Brabec, guest Karen Schuster.

#### **Guest Speaker**

- Karen is member of Newmarket Business Association. She met with us to discuss possibilities regarding Newmarket's 300th Anniversary celebration.
- Described the Hampton storytelling community event, which was recorded. She wants to take on a project to interview older folks in town, get stories about Newmarket in times past, perhaps create a book with stories and photos, and video. She discussed showing interviews on Channel 13, possibly make a documentary.
- Also mentioned the possibility of hanging portraits in Millspace and including art from around the town as well.
- She plans to partner with the Historical Society.
- There is a committee, but we are unsure where that currently stands.
- We discussed, if Karen gets this project off the ground, what can we as a group do to help or bring visibility to it?
- Karen would like a rep from A+T to meet with her regularly.

#### **Old Business**

- Pam made a motion to accept the minutes from 8/22, Morgan seconded, it was approved.
- **Creative Grounds**

We discussed the zoom presentation about this resource. (Debra will attach provided notes to minutes.) It is a database tool from the NECA to catalog local artists and businesses.

- **Backyard Bash**

We received \$500 from the profits of the event.

Morgan attended the Parks and Rec. wrap-up meeting and submitted documents from that to Debra for review.

- **Artist Among Us - Oct.1**

By Debra's count, we have 7 participants at Moody Point and 6 at the Library.

She will be submitting a new notice for the event to the Newmarket newsletter this week.

- **Halloween Haunt**

We discussed where/if we fit into this event.

Debra wanted first to identify our mission as a group. She explained that in her opinion, P+R is "for" residents; A+T is more about enhancing the businesses of local artists, and for attracting visitors and more residents.

Pam had reviewed the commission's former minutes to consider what we should do moving forward. It was suggested that we could look less at events and focus more on enhancing what is here. We don't want to repeat past mistakes and lose focus.

The consensus was that the Commission shouldn't be "tagging along" with P+R, or other organizations; we are not necessarily about events. Megan mentioned we should pursue a "culture of art"; less family focus.

After Artist Among Us, we will figure out our strategy, present it to Town Council, and move forward. We will also seek to recruit 3 more members.

Debra cited the need for "purpose and clarity." We will each write a "job description" for what we want from new members. Debra will find the existing one and send it out, and we will all aim for next meeting to have our own input.

It was unanimously decided not to move forward with the Halloween Haunt for this reason.

- **Elm St Mural**

We need to go to Chinburg to see what he wants to do before we can move forward with any projects. Debra to coordinate meeting with Chinburg and Town Manager.

## **New Business**

- Onica resigned as co-chair due to scheduling conflicts via text message to Debra at 6:49pm tonite.

- **Public Library**

They have approached us about collaborating on having art displayed on the building in time for their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration next year.

All expressed interest in working with them on installation projects in the future.  
Research into Newmarket's history could provide inspiration.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm.  
Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Toukatly, Secretary