



TOWN OF
NEWMARKET
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission

March 7, 2023 at 6:00pm

Town Hall

MEETING MINUTES

Approved April 11, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:08pm.

In attendance: Val Toukatly, Debra Smith, Pam Myers-Morgan, Megan Brabec, Morgan Santos, Aimee Gigandet, Joshua Skovlund. Mr. Allen, a member of the public, also attended.

Public Forum

- Mr. Allen brought up a previous event in Newmarket, during which there were designated chalk areas for kids to draw on, and were power washed off after. We brainstormed as a group ways to bring this back. To replicate this we would need to identify areas in town that would work for this activity. We discussed the chalk exhibit at the Backyard Bash. The area between Town Hall and the school could also work. We could have chalkboard paint panels on our future projects too. Mr. Allen would like for us to find ways to bring kids into their community more. He mentioned Mike Provost was formerly a leader in Boy Scouts, could be a useful contact in getting the scouts involved in future programs.
- Mr. Allen also suggested a future discussion regarding traffic issues around the downtown area which may affect tourism.

New Business

- Morgan moved to accept the previous minutes. Pam seconded, and it was approved.
- Pam will be renewing her term. Val will not be at this time. There will be a new Town Council rep replacing Megan, but we do not currently have a date for that. At this time we have two open spots on the committee.
- Joshua explained that life changes have affected his ability to commit time and attend meetings in the immediate future. The committee all generally agreed that we would be happy to have him on the committee in whatever capacity he is able.
- the miniature mock-ups he showed to Debra.
- Looked at Joshua's drafts of the new logo and discussed some possible revisions that he will send along to us before the next meeting.

- Aimee discussed upcoming Rec events. Rec Connect event at Millspace (May 25): All community leaders and groups are invited. There will be a review of successful collaborations, ACT could be involved in this. Community awards will be given out by NBA, we can submit our projects to that as well. At the time of Rec Connect we will be looking at unveiling the Pocket Park improvements.
- Arts in the Park events this year will be Tuesdays 6/27, 7/11, 7/18, 7/25, 8/8. ACT can send our plans to Alyssa and it can be put on the Arts in the Park event page.
- Backyard Bash team will be sending out a form looking for what we are doing are we getting a take of the money and providing volunteers, or running our own thing? That survey will be due May 1st, so we will discuss more at our next meeting.
- Bart arrived with a guest to discuss our strategic plan. He feels we are in a good place with it right now. He explained that the planning board has a robust budget for implementing a new town master plan. Visioning and Land Use chapters of the master plan will be updated in addition to others. Environment and Energy and the ACT may be added. The board will have a consultant helping with the overall plan for the community. Bart will be in touch with ACT regarding deadlines and such. Debra asked if there is a budget specifically allotted for ACT. The master plan however is less specific than this and would not include a budget. For now, with regards to this larger project, we will solicit feedback from the community and consider 2023 as a formative year, so next year we can come prepared to the master plan visioning process. We will bring our goals and strategies at that time and explain why we believe an ACT chapter should be added.
- discussed grant funding potential for the Elm St Mural. Debra invited Sylvia to be a board member or otherwise a resource for us in the future. Sylvia lives on Elm and has seen the deterioration of the wall first hand. Community has been interested in helping out high school, hardware store, etc may be allies. She brought a potential grant that may help us with funding the project and has done some personal research as well. She could help us with grant writing. Proposal was for the Arts for Community Engagement grant, \$1-6k. Pam asked when the work for the grant would need to be completed; within the next year or so. We would qualify for the grant. Sylvia mentioned that the project may be more supported by the community if it is a revitalization of the existing mural. We want more community input like this; Aimee suggested we seek input at the Rec Connect. We discussed options: should we apply for grants and funding piecemeal? Or could we apply for this grant to revitalize our labeled Library windows project? Sylvia brought up other options for grants as well such as AARP. She mentioned that it would be important to highlight cultural diversity and heritage in Newmarket.
- Morgan proposed an idea to have photographers capture Arts in the Park events they can submit their photos, and the photos can then be used on a

ticket/coupon for local eateries. We will discuss the idea further at our April meeting.

Old Business

- We need to have our newsletter submissions updated. Debra has not had luck reaching Tim about this.
- There are no applications yet for Historical Society internship. Megan will keep applications open until the end of March.
- Pam updated us on the 300th committee, brought their brainstorming/visioning materials. Currently it is agreed that the town will put on some events, different groups will organize others as part of a larger effort.
- Regarding Pocket Park artist solicitation, Josh explained his mockup which we can share with artists. He presented panels, a sculptural podium and/or live entertainment options. Debra brought forward a proposal for us to reach out to a local photographer whose work she had seen. We may approach him to be the

Morgan will be talking to John Kiper regarding the unveiling event.

- committee, and that she will still be available as a resource.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.
Our next meeting will be held on April 11, 6pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Toukatly, Secretary