



TOWN OF
NEWMARKET
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission

April 11, 2023 at 6:00pm

Town Hall

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:08pm.

In attendance: Val Toukatly, Debra Smith, Pam Myers-Morgan, Megan Brabec, Morgan Santos, Aimee Gigandet, Ben Buckley. Sam Kenney of the Riverfront Advisory Committee also attended.

New member, Ben Buckley, was welcomed and the committee introduced themselves. Val made a motion to approve of last month's minutes. Megan seconded and it was approved.

Public Forum

- Sam Kenney of the Riverfront Advisory Committee introduced their mission to revitalize the riverfront and downtown. They are currently finding out what the community wants. They will have a major meeting this fall to gather information and present ideas. There are needed repairs to the retaining wall, but also the committee seeks to make Schanda park more useful and enjoyable, and provide access to the riverfront. This is a long-term project and Commission will stay connected to progress and recommendations.

New Business

- The request to open a position on ACT was approved by town council - we now have two openings.
- Josh will be creating video bios for existing ACT members.
- Josh's updated logo was approved with request to correct clipped 'M.'
- Debra has been reaching out to Sylvia and the NH Arts Commission. We need to begin looking into and applying for grants. Pam asked about supplying our finance/budget info for grant apps; Aimee is going to ask Community Center Grant NH what they are looking for, and will bring that info back to us.

- **Backyard Bash:** ACT has submitted the required form to the Rec. We will be fundraising, and we may need to provide volunteers. Aimee explained how volunteers will bring additional funds to organizations. We discussed how feasible it would be to provide people for that; without the guaranteed payout from the proceeds, we would need additional fundraising at our tent. Buy a Brick, etc. Raffle is a possibility- Morgan will be in charge of this and the contribution to the BB larger raffle. We requested the same location as last year, to do chalk drawing again.
- **Arts in the Park:** Discussed the logistics of Morgan's idea from the previous meeting for having photographers take photos of the event which can then be on restaurant "tickets"/coupons. Discussion of what percentage discount should be pitched, and the details of how this would work. Photographers would submit to our email, and we pick an image to be printed on the next week's coupons. Each ticket has an expiration date (8 days out). Morgan and Ben will work on moving this plan forward: creating a template, list of contributors.

Old Business

- **300th Anniversary:** The pilot committee will be putting out a booklet of events but is not putting all of the events on. Pam will be working on a commemorative booklet about the history of the town. Pam and Debra discussed locating and moving the historical gears for the planned sculpture. Newly designated Leo Filian park near hatchery - may be a good sculpture location.
- **Walking tour app:** Pam believes we can optimize the website instead of developing an app. We may pursue this option further with the Historical Society.
- **Library windows:** Pam suggested vinyl "stickers" to be used instead of brackets/panels; Debra mentioned we could potentially use historic photos to circumvent artist fees, as well. Pam will call studio "Blend" in Portsmouth to see how a similar display was installed there.
- **Pocket Park:** Debra has the first exhibit lined up: Martin Culpepper. Second is Natasha Dikareva. The designs for the Little Galleries are nearly finished. Debra has an artist for Little Gallery as well: Carol Poitras. There was discussion about potentially having lighting and cameras installed.

Debra noted that we did get approval for a granite platform for sculpture, but thinks a rock/kindness garden will be a better fit. She will look into making that happen.

Debra also got a quote for aluminum panel printing: \$895.43. This cost will be for every two-sided exhibit; she suggests doing this once a year. We currently have

\$1008.77. Debra is still getting quotes on frames. Hoping the Town will help us fund them since we don't currently have a budget line item.

We have permission from Town Manager to paint the telephone electrical box prior to installation, in addition to the wall. However, Debra will call the telephone company to get written confirmation just in case.

Pam made a motion to approve the \$895.43 expense for Pocket Park. Val seconded. It was approved.

Pam would like a plaque to recognize Linked Together... and the original owner of property/"Inferno." She suggested contacting Timberland about providing such a plaque. Morgan also mentioned photographing the mural before we cover it, as a way to preserve it.

- We briefly discussed the parking issue re: Ben's email, and agreed to discuss more in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.
Our next meeting will be held on May 2 at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Toukatly, Secretary