



TOWN OF
NEWMARKET
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Arts & Tourism Commission

November 1, 2022 at 7:00pm

Town Hall

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 7:08pm.

In attendance: Val Toukatly, Debra Smith, Pam Myers-Morgan, Aimee Gigandet, Morgan Santos, Megan Brabec.

Debra made a motion to amend the minutes from the previous meeting. The updated minutes will reflect that the Commission approved a \$200 expense to pay for the banners and signage for The Artist Among Us.

Megan seconded and the minutes were approved with this amendment.

New Business

- Member recruitment: We reviewed Debra's "wanted ad" for a new Commission member. Aimee mentioned that we don't have a highly focused mission statement; ideally, we would when recruiting. But this new member can help the Commission define that for the future.
It was noted that "Ad hoc" in the Commission title should be clarified. Megan will ask Steve if that is inherent to the committee or if it can be formally removed. Pam moved that we approve the ad, Val seconded, it was approved.
- There is not an update regarding Onica's status as co-chair. We will table the matter for now, Debra will try to reach out to Onica to clarify the situation before we make any formal motions. We will discuss next month once we know how Onica would like to proceed.
- Ruffled painting installation at the Library: A letter to the library foundation regarding donation of the painting was accepted. There is a plaque being made for its installation.
- Lamprey Health free little library: Ellen Fountain painted the little library and there was a small ceremony for its installation. Debra would like to include this event in our wanted ad as an example of things we're doing.

Old Business

- Art boxes / “little free galleries”: Homestead Woodworking School met with Debra about what we want to do. They wanted to know what we would like fabricated, and when.

Val described the miniature gallery at Millspace, suggested that it could be a part of the project. Aimee said we could potentially have one at Parks and Rec. It is on town property and there are cameras, and would go along with kids art classes. Val suggested a future possibility of individuals in town hosting their own in addition to ones maintained by the Commission. Morgan suggested that we could put one in the space between downtown and the Rec. The Pocket Park was given as another viable option.

It was decided that for now we will make two: One for Parks and Rec and one for Pocket Park. Millspace’s existing one can be included, Val will check with the original maker on this.

The commission discussed putting out a call for work after the holidays. There is a possibility to brand the project as the “opening act” of our “ACT initiative.”

- Elm St. Mural: Debra met with Eric Chinburg on Oct. 12. He confirmed he supports rehab of the wall and will help. He would like to see a final proposal for our project before we move forward. We need to develop a plan to repair and refresh the wall, as it cannot just be repainted. Deb connected to Leston Quintanilla of LGT Restoration and he is working on a quote for this repair.

We want to look into the history of the mural. Does it have to remain dedicated to the same individual? We determined that the NBA originally commissioned it.

We determined that we want the mural to compliment the six “window” murals that will be painted at the library. Ideally this will coincide with the library’s 100th anniversary next year.

- 300th anniversary committee: Meeting report from Pam. The US bicentennial was huge in Newmarket, a 10-day event. A recent public forum suggested that for the 300th, the town should do a year of events instead of a festival. The town government wants a committee to form independently and then seek to be chartered by the town. Nothing formal has been committed to at this point.

Potential involvement for A+T may include having a sculpture or statue installed in town. We discussed if we want to participate, and if so how? Pam decided to attend the next Historical Society meeting on Dec. 7 to express interest on behalf of A+T, but with no commitment at this time. We’ll discuss more in the new year.

- Creative Vitality Suite: Debra reminded the committee of an upcoming demonstration of this program that documents the impact of arts in a community. Debra and Pam will try to attend this virtual meeting.

Our next meeting will be held on December 6th.

Pam made a motion to adjourn, Megan second, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Toukatly, Secretary