



TOWN OF
NEWMARKET
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Arts & Tourism Commission

December 6, 2022 at 7:00pm

Town Hall

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 7:08pm.

In attendance: Val Toukatly, Debra Smith, Pam Myers-Morgan, Megan Brabec. Ed, an artist and member of the public also attended.

Pam moved to accept the minutes from November 1, 2022, Megan seconded, it was approved.

Public Forum

- Ed inquired about the future of Arbor Park. There are currently plans to revamp the park with the future Wentworth Cheswell statue in mind. If the Cheswell committee declines the offer, A&T can take the reins on the usage of the park.

Old Business

- Member recruitment: Debra had met with Josh Skoglund - Artist Among Us participant. She recognized that he may be a potential candidate for our open position. He has a background in videography and some new media. Can bring a new perspective on public art. He has been invited to attend and apply.
- Library partnership: Debra attended a Library Trustee meeting on Nov.28. She presented the idea of installing exterior mural panels. The idea was approved under the conditions that the panels must be changeable, and the library must be part of the approval process. A&T is not responsible for cost, but will be directing the project. We will facilitate bringing artists and concepts to the library. We need to put out a request for proposals regarding the designs.

Debra also found a fabricator to assist with the building of frames, who will be sending a plan and quote. There will be 6 panels measuring 74"x44" each.

It may be worth it to apply for an NCDC grant. Val will look into the process of receiving a grant from NCDC and report back.

Next steps: Debra will also be meeting with a muralist to get an idea of what parameters we should include in our RFP. The RFP will also include this mission statement: "As a community, we envision a town in which arts and culture are not just part of a storied past but at the heart of our contemporary identity — expressing who we have been, who we are, and who we hope to be."

The library received the plaque for the donated artwork from A&T and Tracy Mathis. This plaque cost \$23.03.

- Elm St. Wall: Debra received some quotes for consideration. New quote for repair will not include rebuilding the hole that the library had put in there for future stairs. It will include a cap installed on the wall, metal or masonry, to prevent future damage.
For repair of the wall, LGT Restoration provided a quote of approximately \$42,000. Powell Sandblasting provided a quote for their services of \$22,780.

New Business

- Megan will be bringing resolution to the town to remove "ad hoc" and add "culture" to the name of our committee.
- Pam met with Johnny Boston's re: using Pocket Park for a Little Gallery and new wall mural. She got his approval and some background on the park. In the early 00s, Linked Together from the elementary school created the existing mural and installed benches as a service project. Americorps artists helped with the mural. We want to acknowledge their work that was done previously when we develop a new project. Linked Together has not made any commitment to a specific contribution to the new project. Pam also confirmed that we can paint the junction box in the park.

Deb spoke with Blooming Newmarket for ideas for landscaping in Pocket Park as well, and Johnny has a contact who could provide a pro bono design for the park. We brainstormed several ideas for We brainstormed ideas for shape and structure of the Little Galleries. Val will bring some concepts to the next meeting.

- Deb met with the NBA and Historical Society and discussed ways to support the Historical society's walking tour. Megan may have some connections through her job to assist this project's improvement.
- We discussed moving forward this month with our review of Debra's draft purpose document. Megan explained the process of bringing the document to Town Council. We agreed to submit our individual comments to Deb and the group via email by December 27th, so Debra can revise by our next meeting.

Our next meeting will be held on January 3rd. The entire meeting will be dedicated to editing the Strategic Plan.

Pam made a motion to adjourn, Megan seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Toukatly, Secretary