



TOWN OF
NEWMARKET
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission

Tuesday, March 4 at 6 pm
Town Hall Council Chambers
Meeting Minutes

Approved April 8, 2025

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM

Attendees: Doug Spicher, Pam Myers-Morgan, Morgan Santos, Justin Glazebrook, Aimee Gigandet, Ben Buckley

Remote via zoom: Debra Smith, Ben Reeder

Missing: Shannon Culpepper

Acceptance of Minutes of 2/4/25

Pam moved to accept the minutes and Ben Buckley seconded. Amendment was made to correct Pam's name spelling. Approved as amended 7-0

February Financial Report

AC&T Available Funds- \$3231.66 (\$1609.70 left from Eversource grant)

Received \$177.52 deposit from calendar sales

Correspondence Received

LRAC Grant Funds Update by Ben Buckley. Reported LRAC no longer has funding, it has been cut due to the current government changes, future unsure. They have been amazing partners thus far.

Member Term Renewals & Changes

Shannon Culpepper has submitted her resignation. Ben Buckley to submit his resignation to Town Council this month as well. Ben will then separately submit an application for Alternate Representative and Doug Spicher will submit application for Ben's vacated Representative appointment. Commission asking for new applicants for the vacated positions (1 full and 1 alternate positions open).

Millspace-John Herman asked Debra if as ACT plan for 2025, would we be interested in hosting any sort of event in the Millspace. Discussion to follow as 2025 plans develop.

Old Business

1. Willey House Park
 - a. Sculpture Update -Received written correspondence from Willey House property owner to allow a sculpture to be placed on central grass plot. Town is drafting letters of agreement for this plot for the sculpture and with Mike Hoffman for the mural.
 - b. Doug asked about who is responsible for plowing so we can see about plans for snow if/when a sculpture is placed, we agreed that we should reach out to DPW to find out more information.
 - c. Both chess tables have been ordered arriving in May.

- d. Debra recommends that if we do a sculpture, it should be pushed to a May 21 reveal date. Pam voiced that we should put the sculpture project out as an RFP.
- e. At this time, Commission will not plan to go through with the current proposal we have from Marcus Weinfurten. Debra to distribute original RFP draft for discussion at the next meeting.

2. Master Plan Update

- a. Subcommittee Draft Chapter Comments- Pam & Doug
Currently the chapter is very focused on arts and culture and not tourism. What can be added to the chapter for tourism? Pam thinks that we should not be a marketing organization, we should be creating an inviting environment that enhances tourism. The consensus seems to be that tourism should happen organically and should not be something that we are too concerned about marketing. We should try to incorporate into the chapter the concept of local tourism, that we strive to make the town walkable and enjoyable for the community members.

3. 2025 Project Planning

- a. Artist Studio/ Garden Tour Update- June 18- Debra & Aimee
Aimee, Mike, Debra and several artists met. The artists have said that they would be open for longer hours than the typical garden tour in Newmarket. Artists would offer refreshments if they chose but it would be managed by those artists in their own studios. Agreed that they would create a piece of artwork to auction to raise money for ACT. They agreed to do the suggested donations instead of tickets. The garden pairing was meant to match a garden with an artist, and they will create a piece that is inspired by their pairing. Aimee met with some of the gardeners that had concerns about the art being present on their property. A potential solution would be to meet all at one location for a couple of hours and then to disperse back to studios and gardens for the tour. Will propose the idea to the artists to see what they think
- b. Library Project Update- Debra
Friends of the Library and the trustees unanimously voted against moving forward on the library mural project. 300th, Main Street Corp. and Historical Society all voted to back the project. Justin made a motion to reach out to Library trustees and the Friends of the Library to see if there is any conversation to be had to change minds or better understand why they are against the project. Pam seconded and it was unanimously approved. Debra will reach out to see if there is any sort of conversation that we can have that may change their minds to support the project.

New Business

We will do the next flipping of the mural in the pocket park on June 21st

Debra met an Abraham Lincoln impersonator in Florida and is interested in getting him to come up and present here in Newmarket. He plans to come to New England in the Fall so we will need to talk more about this if the commission has mutual interest.

On September 8th at Town Hall, Pam will be presenting an historical perspective about the Elm Street Mural on behalf of the Historical Society. Recommendation was made to have ACT attend the public presentation to facilitate public input of mural preservation/renovation project. Preparation for this presentation to be addressed at future meeting.

Main Street Corp launched an informational website: newmarketnhmainstreet.org

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm. Next meeting moved to April 8, 2025