



TOWN OF
NEWMARKET
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission

Tuesday, April 8 at 6 pm

Town Hall Auditorium

Meeting Minutes

Approved May 6, 2025

Meeting called to order at 6:07 PM

Attendees: Doug Spicher, Pam Myers-Morgan, Justin Glazebrook, Aimee Gigandet, Ben Buckley, Ben Reeder and Debra Smith

Acceptance of Minutes of 3/4/25

Pam moved to accept the minutes and Justin seconded. Approved 7-0

March Financial Report

1. AC&T 2025-26 Funds & Budget Review
 - a. We received a \$68.00 check for merchandising, but it was accidentally returned to the sender, it is on its way back to us.
Total available funds once it is deposited: \$3300.66

Correspondence Received

- a. Member Term Renewals & Changes
 - a. Doug resigned as an alternate and has been approved as a permanent member of the commission.
 - b. Morgan has submitted her resignation.
- b. Introduction of Linda Ziarnowski a member of the public that is interested in joining ACT.

1. Other Correspondence

- a. MillSpace artist space use as per original agreement - There was a clause when the town sold the mill to Chinburg saying that 5% of the Millspace should be for art/artists. We are awaiting a report from Chinburg to show what percentage of current units are live-in arts units.
- b. Debra spoke with John Herman and the gallery had planned to have three showings in 2025 though due to sinking floor and damage they had to do one less showing this year. There is interest in a 2026 art show with ACT, more to come. Millspace will be available on June 21st for an event if we are interested. ACT is still hoping to get a representative from Millspace to sit on the commission.

Old Business

1. Willey House Park Sculpture
 - a. DPW is looking at changing the stones as they are not working out very well in the space, becoming scattered.
 - b. Sculpture - Discussion occurred about whether we should use the center plot of land or the plot next to the Smith building for the sculpture. Aimee had mentioned making it removable or putting it on the stone driveway that belongs to the town. The discussion has been moved to the May meeting when we will have more information on the Library Project.
 - c. Property Owner Lease Agreement- Ben Buckley motioned to allow Debra to sign the

agreement and Doug seconded, the motion passed 7-0

2. Master Plan Update

- a. We are scheduled to have a presentation at the May meeting to go over the final draft. Doug mentioned that we should be more involved in the Riverfront Master Plan or at least be aware that there is some crossover between the chapter we are working on and the one that they are working on.
- b. Aimee recommends we have a conversation with Exeter Chamber of Commerce about our current tier and what that offers, along with fundraising options.

3. 2025 Project Planning

- a. Library Project Update- April 28th is the follow-up meeting with the Library to see if they have interest in doing this project. We want to make sure that we are only planning to spend funds that we actually know that we will have or that we already have so this will be an important meeting relating to our other future projects. Pam brought up that one of the sides of the initial panels, should we move forward with this project, should be able to be left up indefinitely should we be unable to fund more panels later.
- b. Lincoln Cultural Performance- Ben Reeder made mention that this seems to be out of scope with what we typically do in the commission but after further discussion it seems like a good way to build rapport with the school and is a worthwhile small project. The Superintendent loves the idea and we would like to hear from teachers and students to see what they would be interested in talking about with this performer. Ben Reeder made a motion to approve \$400.00 for a single Lincoln Cultural Performance in September, date TBD. Justin seconded and the vote passed 6-0-1. Pam Abstained.
- c. Art in the Heart of the Garden- Art Studio & Garden Tours – Sat. June 21 includes
 - i. Art Walk Downtown – coordinate with NBA
 - ii. Garden Reception and Art Auction in Rose's Garden
 - iii. Garden/Flower Demonstrations coordinate with Bloomin' Newmarket
 - iv. Flip the exhibit in the Artist Among Us Pocket Park w/art rock painting
 - i. Ben Reeder motioned and Ben Buckley seconded to put 250.00 towards stickers and refreshments for the reception. The stickers are to be used to gain 10% off at participating local businesses. Motion passed 7-0
- d. Between now and September we should work to hammer out what we envision for Elm Street mural so that we can dovetail off of Historical Society's presentation on Sept. 8.

New Business

1. Upcoming ACT Activities

- a. 2026 Photo Contest- "It's Reigning Cats & Dogs"- launch June. Justin motioned to move forward with a photo contest, pending theme and category ideas. Ben Reeder seconded and the motion passed 7-0
- b. Backyard Bash- Friday, August 1 – Artists can get an artisan table for \$40.00. This amount can be paid for by donating an item worth at least \$40.00 for the raffle.
- c. Ice Cream Social- Tuesday, August 5 voting for Best 2025 Photo – Ben Reeder made a motion to continue planning this yearly event and Pam seconded, the motion passed 7-0

Adjourned at 8:14pm Next meeting is May 6, 2025