



TOWN OF **NEWMARKET** NEW HAMPSHIRE

Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission

Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at 6 pm

Town Hall Council Chambers

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Debra Smith, Pam Myers-Morgan, Gerry Bresnahan, Doug Spicher, Heather Pederson, Judi Case, Aimee Gigandet & Stella McShera

Acceptance of Minutes of 7/7/26 meeting

Financial Report

All available town budget 2025-26 funds had been spent, leaving \$13,352.80 in available Trust funds after accounting for expenses including \$15,000 committed to masonry repairs. ACT received a \$500 donation from Newmarket Dental and additional donations totaling \$786.95, though the organization remains tight on funds and will need to carefully manage expenses going forward.

Mural Project Budget Discussion

Debra reviewed the budget for the mural project, highlighting that \$12,500 is needed, with \$4,000 allocated for artists and \$5,000 for 13 mural frames. The Commission approved expenditure of \$15,000 for masonry repairs as per quote received from LGT Restoration. The team discussed the need to find additional funding sources, including potentially selling prints to businesses, and explored the possibility of collaborating with the Newmarket Business Association (NBA) to raise funds and increase business engagement. It was agreed that a specific timeline should be set for inviting NBA representatives to a Zoom call to discuss collaboration opportunities

Old Business

Elm Street Mural Revitalization

The committee discussed plans for a community paint event on September 12th at the library, starting at 11 AM and running until 3 PM, which will coincide with a book sale and story hour. They also reviewed the mural unveiling schedule for June 4th-5th, 2027, including an invitation-only pre-unveiling event on June 4th and the main unveiling on June 5th, with potential street closure and food vendors being considered.

A subcommittee will be established to review artist proposals due September 1st, consisting of representatives from Main Street Corp, 300th celebration, Town Council, public members, and potentially the library and New Market Business Association. The subcommittee will report back to Commission as the commission has final decision-making authority over which artists advance to presentations. Heather raised concerns about the large number of people involved in the process, but Debra explained this approach helps manage potential community resistance and maintains positive optics for the project.

Fundraising Event Planning Meeting

Discussed plans for a fundraising event featuring framed business pictures that will be unveiled at a Community Paint Day event in September. Decided to create a sample frame and develop a sell sheet with different business options for potential donors, with a goal of raising \$2,500 through small and large donations during the event. The team agreed to prepare these materials before the September meeting where they will present the fully developed concept to stakeholders.

Collaboration with Library Updates

Debra reported on a successful meeting with the library trustees where they reached an understanding about potential space usage for events, with the library agreeing to keep them updated on their feasibility study progress.

Community Painting Event Planning

Sherwin Williams donated \$950 worth of masonry paint and Ace Hardware provided supplies for the Elm Street Mural painting project. They decided to implement a minimum \$10 donation requirement for the custom aprons being made by Gerry and Linda, which will be given to participants during the community painting event. Painting activities at 11 AM following story hour, with the event running until 3 PM. The group discussed options for providing pizza, including potentially working with Panzanella's restaurant for donated pizzas or using a portable pizza oven with trained volunteers. Aimee suggested involving the police department's pizza truck, which had been looking for an event to support after their National Night Out plans fell through. Debra emphasized the need to coordinate with police for crowd management, and the team agreed to offer ice cream to children attending the 10:30 AM story hour. The group also discussed construction progress on masonry repairs and the need for documentation through photos and video.

Mural Unveiling Event Planning

The team discussed plans for an upcoming mural unveiling event scheduled for June 4th and 5th. Due to NHS graduation occurring on June 4th, they decided to hold an invitation-only pre-unveiling event in the evening at the library, followed by the main unveiling on June 5th. The pre-event will include a small gathering of about 50 people, including print buyers, sponsors, and partners, while the main unveiling will feature speeches on the library steps and guided tours of the mural with docents stationed at each panel.

300th Event Planning

The team discussed plans for the mural unveiling scheduled for June 4th-5th, 2027, with a presentation by Pam planned for September 8th. They confirmed that NCC is on board with hosting a pancake breakfast after the gondola event, and discussed potential plans for closing Elm Street and organizing food trucks or a community barbecue, though final decisions on these elements are still pending. The group also addressed concerns about Main Street Corp's participation and funding, with Suki needing to present plans to the Main Street Corp board regarding their level of involvement and financial commitment.

New Business

Community Borrowing Barn Project

Stella announced plans to open a "borrowing barn" that will include a tool library, clothing library, maker space for art, and community dining space for fundraising events. The group discussed a potential opportunity to purchase the old train station property behind Geppetto's

for \$395,000. Stella agreed to look into the train station property situation and report back at the next meeting.

Action Items

Aimee

- Prime the Newmarket Business Association (NBA) at their August meeting about the mural fundraising collaboration.
- Request to be on the NBA's September meeting agenda to present the full mural fundraising package.
- Do not take down the Backyard Bash banners until Monday; ACT will take them down.
- Talk to the police chief about bringing the pizza truck for the community paint event.
- Provide music (DJ) for the community paint event from 1pm to 3pm.

Debra

- Meet with Pam in August to go over ideas for the pocket park images.
- Create a frame sample, list of businesses, and sell sheet for the NBA presentation by September.
- Contact the Mr. Smith who donated \$100 for further discussion about his art collection and potential donations.
- Put out the donor match challenge for the art triangles in the town newsletter this week.
- Set the community paint event for September 12 from 11am to 3pm.
- Follow up with Panzanella's about donating pizzas for the community paint event.
- Extend an invitation to Jen Wieselquist (Library Board of Trustees) to join the RFP subcommittee.
- Reach out to CeCe at Juju's to invite her to join the RFP subcommittee.
- Finalize the RFP subcommittee members and begin reviewing proposals after September 1st.

Doug

- Present honorarium checks to Charlotte and Dan.

Pam

- Provide images for the pocket park by a few weeks from now.

Stella

- Report back at the next meeting on the status of the old train station property.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:52pm