

**Exeter Arts and Culture Advisory Commission**

**May 25, 2021; 5:30 pm**

Draft meeting minutes

This meeting was held from 5:30 pm to 6:16 pm via Zoom

**In attendance:** Todd Hearon, Scott Ruffner, Marissa Vitolo, Anne Kenny, Bruce Jones (Alt), Anthony Callendrello, Dave Drouin

**Absent:** Lovey Roundtree Oliff (Select Board Representative), Dawn Amey, David Drouin (Alt)

AGENDA

1. Call to order: 5:32pm
2. Review/Approval of May 11, 2021 meeting minutes
  - a. motion to approve as written - approved
3. New Business
  - a. Short term goals
    - i. Update on Founders Park sculpture and grant application
      1. Bruce has found someone to restore the sculpture
        - a. insured vendor with experience
        - b. can restore the whole statue
      2. May need a 2nd bid
        - a. Greg (Parks and Rec) putting the request for restoration together
        - b. staying in contact with Greg for the grant deadline/application
          - i. Mary P. P. had offered to help write the grant
            1. Scott will connect Greg with some of the committee to make sure the work is done by the deadline
          - ii. need to mention weather/water and its effects on the sculpture
            1. most grants are given to work that is over 50 years old
      - ii. Update on Exeter cultural events website and calendar
        1. Anne provided a working start of a list that could be included to start (will be in flux)
        2. Next step: working group
          - a. presentation of ideas: what could work, costs, design, links to be included
          - b. Scott and Todd to help out
        3. Plan needs to be ready to be presented to Budget Committee because funding allocation planning starts mid-summer
    - b. Grant Opportunities
      - i. New Hampshire Council on the Arts
        1. cultural events with local talent
        2. ExTV - social media content: get the word out about these grants
    - c. Town of Exeter Master Plan: pg 46
      - i. Art installations in public places
        1. working group - Marissa/Dawn
        2. work with Town Planner and Swasey Trustees and private property owners to identify locations
        3. list of existing public art
        4. How can we get the community involved?
        5. Permanent work vs work that can be removed
        6. What has/has not worked well in other local area towns?
      - ii. prioritize to improve Town Hall - work with the Chamber to help gather funds (grants, fundraising, etc...)
        1. working group - Tony/Scott
    - d. Commission goals and budget process
      - i. pull together costs of items that should be included in the budget project
      - ii. grant writing
    - e. Swasey Parkway trust document and future use
      - i. at some point Swasey could be closed to vehicles - "trust states open to pleasure vehicles"
      - ii. familiarize and
    - f. Town permitting for cultural events / 2018 Citizens Petition on Town Warrant
      - i. fee structure in place but needs to be revisited
        1. money to be invested back into the building
        2. warrant article? - study needed to assess state of the Town Hall
        3. Dave could help with sound/lighting design review with cost assessment
        4. Marissa can help with pricing gallery walls, pedestals, hanging systems, etc...

5. Tony to reach out to Russ
  - ii. advocate for better structure for use of Town Hall/Art Gallery
  - iii. need to create a plan/structure for art shows - restroom, trash, food, drink, scheduling, nights/days open, First Friday openings that coincide with town First Fridays
  - iv. sound/lighting in stage space - advise to enhance to get this space more usable and desirable, as well as to help ExTV
  - v. HVAC - limits to time of year this space can be used
4. Adjourn: 6:22pm
5. Next meeting June 8, 2021 at 6:30pm