

**Exeter Arts and Culture Advisory Commission**  
**July 13, 2021; 6:30 pm**

Draft meeting minutes

This meeting was held from 6:30 pm to 7:26pm in the Novak Room

**In attendance:** Marissa Vitolo, Anne Kenny, Bruce Jones, Anthony Callendrello, Scott Ruffner

**Absent:** Lovey Roundtree Oliff (Select Board Representative), Dave Drouin, Mary Paige-Provost, Dawn Amey, Todd Hearon

1. Call to order 6:33pm
2. Review/Approval of June 22, 2021 meeting minutes
  - Approved unanimously
3. New Business
  - a. Presentation by Renay Allen: art and activism for 10 years
    - Lit Fest (non-profit): 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in April in Town Hall – support local authors to give them a voice and an economic driver; writing workshops – two town bookstores involved, library, Wordbarn, TEAM (COVID plan is Zoom if needed)
    - Exeter Black Heritage: pocket park at edge of Swasey Parkway; 10 Black revolutionary war soldiers moved here and raised their family afterward but were squelched out
      - public art monument for BIPOC
      - historical markers around town; Renay wrote historical books about Exeter
        - rm-allen.com – panel discussion with the public and other video clips relating to the project
      - if Swasey opens back to car traffic – project will change
      - Can this be part of the Exeter master plan?
    - Alewife Festival – May: environment and fish; possibility of music, food, art vendors, etc...
  - b. Short term goals
    - community grants from the state due 7/16/21
    - i. Update on Founders Park sculpture grant application
      - no update yet
    - ii. Update on Exeter cultural events website and calendar
      - hosting can be moved from one company to another
      - domain name does not have to be the same company
      - committee has many members that have designed their own websites
      - AK met with designers
        - two choices
        - prices vary (kept private at this time)
        - stay in touch via liaison for design upkeep and photos
      - present to Darren Winham (Economic Developer) and Russ Dean (Town Manager) this upcoming month to decide if this project will go forward (based on cost/91A issues)
        - TH, AK, AC from the committee to be presenters
        - 91A questions – town funding/owning websites
        - NH Council on the Arts does not provide funding for website; investors may be needed
  - c. Commission goals and budget process
    - i. Town Hall - Survey
      - need to get it out there further – spread the news; open through the summer
      - only 44 comments so far
        - seats and sound most important so far
      - TC to mention it in an article
      - data to feed a warrant article
      - stairs not to code so “backstage” upstairs is no longer an option for downstairs events
    - ii. Trust fund from Exeter Arts Committee

- separate warrant article for a new trust best option
- need this to take donations

#### 4. Other Business

- branding Exeter where “art” is created “Exeter: Where Arts Live”, “Exeter: Celebrating the Arts”
- IZI app– free platform: list of places with maps for Exeter with an audio file attached to the item you are viewing
  - public art and architecture could go here
- EACAC could advise for art gallery/help vet applicants – SR and MV recreating the application process/refine procedures
  - gallery needs changes to be more enticing to groups (hanging, pedestals, back room, etc...)
  - \$200 for a special event

5. Adjourn: 7:40pm

6. Next Mtg: 8/10 at 6:30pm