

Amherst Public Art Commission

April 19, 2018

Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Eric Broudy, Amy Crawley, William Kaizen, Ellen Keiter, and Rene Theberge

The Commission approved the February and March meeting minutes.

Chairman's Report

Loretta Yarlow informed Rene the XCTA proposal is wending its way through the university and town approval process. She said they are still on schedule for a summer installation.

Rene spoke with Hampshire student Eli Shalan. Rene recommended Eli contact Jeff Brown about the possibility of installing his project on Jeff's building on Triangle Street.

Eric submitted APAC's proposed policy to the Select Board to encourage private developers to install public art on future building sites. Currently the Select Board is vetting the town meeting agenda and has not scheduled a discussion yet.

Amherst Cultural Council Grant

Rene attended the Design and Review Board meeting. After some discussion, the Board concluded that APAC's electrical box painting project does not fall under its jurisdiction. William expressed his desire for APAC to have more autonomy over the approval process. Amy distributed a draft of the artist release form used by Northampton.

Amy announced that the town owns the three electrical boxes designated for painting: one by Subway, one in front of St. Bridget's Church, and the other outside of Bruegger's Bagels. Amy and Rene still need to inform the abutting merchants as a courtesy. The DPW said artists could not paint over gaskets, screws, sockets, piping, or meter boxes. They also require artists to paint the tops of the boxes a light color for heat reflection. To prep for painting, APAC will need to wash and sand the three boxes.

William offered to help Amy take measurements. Next she will contact Cowles Building Supply, Leader Home Center, and Royal Talens for donations of paint and other supplies.

Cultural District

Eric reported that the Cultural District steering committee will meet next week with two facilitators in an effort to get better organized.

One of the cultural district signs has been installed in Realignment Park. The Amherst Historical Association must approve the sign proposed for Main Street. All other signs are approved. The final step is to record the signs with Hampshire County Court and pay a permit fee.

Public Art

Northampton Arts Council recently turned down the offer of a large outdoor sculpture for Pulaski Park. The reason given was that the town does not have a policy or procedure in place to accept gifts of art. Eric noted that APAC does not have one either. He suggested APAC work with

the Northampton Arts Council to develop plans in collaboration. He will reach out to Brian Foote, executive director of Northampton's Arts and Culture department.

Treasurer's Report

No update.

Percent for Art

Eric reached out to Representative Solomon Goldstein-Rose, who informed him the percent for art bylaw is "in line," awaiting assignment to a committee. Goldstein-Rose hopes to push it along by June. Once the legislature approves the special act then the state attorney general must sign off on the bylaw.

A question was raised whether the new Amherst town council government could jeopardize the percent for art bylaw. Rene said the council will examine all bylaws but would need to petition the state legislature to refute a bylaw.

Open Meeting Law

Rene reviewed guidelines of open meeting law. Town committees cannot meet unless proper notice (a minimum of 48 hours before meeting) is posted on the town website. Meeting agendas must also be made public. Committee members are only permitted to meet or deliberate in a public meeting and a quorum must be present. Two or more members can meet as long as it's not a quorum. Rene asked Commission members to read the open meeting law and be prepared to discuss next month.

Town Hall Gallery

Amy noted that artists are now prohibited from attaching anything to the walls. Labels must be taped to the bottom or side of frames.

Town manager Paul Bockelman is concerned that the third floor landing is not handicap accessible and, after hours, the elevator does not go up to that floor.

Social Media

Amy asked Commission members to submit brief bios for the town website.

Change of Leadership

Rene resigned as Chair of APAC, although he will remain on the Commission for two months to assist with the transition. Eric offered to serve as chair for one year, after which he will reach his six-year term limit. William will serve as interim chair when Eric is away in February and March 2019.

The Commission unanimously elected Eric Broudy its new chairperson and William Kaizen the new treasurer.

Meeting adjourned 1:15 pm