

RiverCulture Steering Committee
February 27, 2020 6-7:30pm
Montague Town Hall, upstairs meeting room
MINUTES

Steering Committee Present: Eileen Dowd, Rachel Teumin

Staff Present: Walter Ramsey, Suzanne LoManto

Community Members: Erin MacLean, Suzette Snow Cobb, Tim de Christopher, Pam Allen, Alex McGuigan, Kristi Bodin, Tammy Ketcham, Jack Nelson

Meeting is opened by Eileen Dowd at 6:04PM.

Minutes of the February 2019 meeting are approved.

6:08PM Review 2019 Annual Report (Document Attached)

Suzanne LoManto reviews RiverCulture plans for the next calendar year. The report reviews RiverCulture's Mission, Roles and Responsibilities, Projects and Partners, Goal and Project Status, and Budget.

Walter Ramsey introduces staffing updates RiverCulture which makes the position full-time. (25 to 35 hours) While still responsible for the RiverCulture program, new responsibilities will include filing/clerk work in support of the Department of Planning and Conservation, as well as developing placemaking for Town redevelopment projects.

Review of 2020 Calendar and Work Plan (Document Attached)

S.L. reviews events, projects and programs March –December. The graph presented to the group illustrates when planning begins and peaks for every activity. Two new events are introduced: The Franklin County Banjo Festival (April) and the reintroduction of the Montague Soap Box Races. (September)

S.L. request more community input in the Turners Falls Cultural District for the purpose of sharing decision making responsibility, setting goals and priorities, and discussing longer range projects and branding. She emphasizes the flexibility of managing the program, which has a 5K annual budget from the MCC.

Discuss 2020 Public Art (Possibilities?)

W.R. discusses with the group the need for a Town public mural policy for private and public property. Writing a policy will begin in the early spring and be presented to the Select Board after review by community stakeholders. Interested reviewers are solicited.

Tim de Christopher proposes a stone mosaic project and would like more time to discuss the idea with the Director of RiverCulture.

Budget Discussion

S.L. discusses how RiverCulture will try to keep long- term business sponsors by offering them higher visibility at key RiverCulture events. The Franklin County Banjo Festival is given as an example of attracting a \$2,000 donation by Greenfield Co Op Bank to be one of two sponsors of the Franklin County Banjo Festival.

Member recruitment and future meeting schedule. Kristi Bodin, Lilith Wolinsky and Tammy Ketchem are introduced as new RC Steering Committee members.

Eileen Dowd calls the meeting to a close. 7:37pm R.T. Seconds. **Meeting is closed.**

Signed / Date

Eileen Dowd Chair