

RiverCulture Steering Committee

Thursday, February 22, 2024

10:30am. In person Town Hall Annex

NOTES. No Votes Taken. Meeting was not recorded

In Attendance: Suzanne LoManto (RiverCulture)

Caitlin Kelley, Prospective member (Montague Public Libraries)

Jon Dobosz Prospective member (Montague Parks and Rec)

Pam Allan, Tim De Christopher (public)

The **meeting started at 10:31pm.**

For the benefit of the audience, everyone introduces themselves and their T.O.M. department. No votes will be taken as the prospective members have not been appointed by the Select Board yet.

TF CULTURAL DISTRICT SURVEY

RiverCulture Director shared print out of the 2024 survey, which had about 80 responses at that point. The entire survey was not discussed. The conversation centered on the questions related to planning summer events: Summer Park Series, First Fridays, and Community performances on Sunday afternoon. The Director shared with the group that she is trying to teach community members how to safely and responsibly use Town resources (re: electricity, keys, porta potties, AV equipment) for the purpose of expanding entertainment within the limits of capacity. Dobosz and Kelley approve of this approach. The group discussed the Shea Mural question, noting that the responses were evenly split between folks who did want to participate in community engagement and folks who did not. Caitlin Kelley believes that the responders may have lacked confidence, falsely thinking they needed a special skill set. She recommends outreach with an emphasis on inclusivity.

SPRING SUMMER EVENTS

The Director of RiverCulture printed blank calendars to fill in with major festivals and summer events. Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons will be used for community bands as previously discussed. Events were added to the calendar including: MCC award events, Fun Fest, Soap Box Races, Christmas in July, Pocumtuck Homelands Festival. Movies in the Park will be moved to First Fridays for the benefit of the built in audience. The calendar will be reviewed by the TF Cultural District at an early March meeting. New events are being planned.

NEFA MAKING IT HERE

LoManto, Dobosz and Kelley all attend weekly NEFA trainings on behalf of Montague. The partners discussed a number of places for temporary art. The group likes the idea of positioning temporary art in all five villages of Montague. Using sections of chain link fence in each of the villages was identified as an idea. They will continue to brainstorm.

Topics Not Anticipated

Artist Tim de Christopher and Pam Allan attended the meeting. Tim offered to donate a sculpture to the Town but wants it installed in Turners Falls. He thinks the sculpture would fit at Peskeompskut Park. Tim made this offer to the RC Steering Committee in August 2023. The Director of RiverCulture let Tim know that there would need to be a community outreach phase of any project. The Director also thinks that the sculpture would look best in a small garden or near a building (ideally a library) noting the sculpture's theme. Tim would like to create a mockup at Peskeompskut Park to determine the appropriateness of the work of art. The Director of RiverCulture is still working on lighting Rock Paper Scissors and gave the couple an update.

Next meeting will be the TF Cultural District Community Meeting in early March. **Adjourned 11:26am.**

