

# **Milford Cultural Council:**

Minutes for February 7, 2023: MCC Public Art Subcommittee Meeting  
Room 3 at Milford Town Hall

## **Attendance**

**Present:** Martin Montoya, Khizra Syeda, Mike Visconti, Geri Eddins

**Absent:** Sandee Buckley, Sara Vono-Caires, C.C. Chapman, Ebi Moazeni, Noressa Santomenna, Joclyn Crivello, Jenny Lyons, Michele Pici, Denise Tracy

**Guests in Attendance:** Patty Salomon, Mitch Ruscitti, Jim Asam

A. Welcome and Call to Order: The meeting was opened at 7:02 p.m.

B. New Business: Public Art Opportunities

### **Town Park Revitalization and Development of New Park on Pearl Street**

The Parks Commission and Select Board are holding a public hearing on Feb. 15 regarding the proposed application and use of a Community Development Block Grant, which would fund a new park and parking area across from the Youth Center, as well as improvements at Town Park. Jim and the Park Commissioners would like the Cultural Council to participate in the process and collaborate on public art projects in both locations.

We reviewed the initial drawings for the Youth Center area. Mitch explained the goals for the projects, including to create more usable space downtown and increase equity in recreational opportunities. Of note, the two park areas are thickly settled and home to Milford's lowest income residents.

Public art designs and corresponding line item amounts are not required at this time, but we can collaborate on a process for design input and a Call to Artists once the grant has been awarded. Mitch is optimistic that Milford will receive the grant. Decision should be made before July.

Jim provided an overview of plans to improve Town Park. Foot print will remain the same, although a new parking lot will be added. Courts to be improved. New lighting that does not impact neighboring houses to be added. Also, Jim is working on a Blue Cross Blue Shield grant to install a fitness court, which includes a large surface for a public art painting.

More details about plans for both parks will be presented at the public meeting on Feb. 15.

MCC members in attendance agreed to support MCC participation in this process. Geri and Sandee signed a letter on MCC stationery supporting the grant proposal.

### **Downtown Mural Design Proposal**

Geri reported that the Town Planner has told her that the AG approved the change in Milford's sign bylaw that Town Meeting approved in October. This change defines and exempts murals from the Sign Bylaw, details where they can be painted, and provides for a vague process of approval: "...installed under the auspices of the Select Board after consultation with the Milford Cultural Council."

Patty has researched possible locations in the downtown corridor, and we reviewed that list of locations.

Geri presented a mural design that the property owner of 182-184 Main Street would like to pursue on the side and back of his building. The initial design includes 3D sculptural elements that the Town Planner stated are not allowed. The mural is allowed; however, the Cultural Council needs to review and determine whether to sponsor or not. Many concerns were brought up regarding both the proposed design and the process of how to review/approve/move forward.

A consensus was made that we ask the property owner to put this project on hold for the moment. We believe that because of questions we have about the process, we need to finalize the Public Art Policy and Process to address these concerns. Of critical importance is the creation of criteria for

what type of design content and style would be desired and allowed. Having these criteria in place will guide us in the approval process and prevent possible legal issues in the future.

**B2T Table Possibility**

We have an original B2T table that was damaged but salvageable. Martin has sanded the top and will sand the benches as well to provide a clean slate. Geri presented a design that was presented back in 2021 by Jacqueline Aubuchon. Her design was not selected by a sponsor, but she has since graduated from MassArt and asked about helping with public art in town. Geri asked about having the council work with her to paint her design on this table that is currently in storage. Everyone agreed, and Geri will ask the council to vote and approve the \$500 stipend and supply expenses at next meeting.

- C. Any Other Business. No other business was discussed. Next Meeting February 21, 2023 (regular monthly meeting).

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Geri Eddins, Chair

February 8, 2023