

**Gloucester Committee for the Arts  
Minutes of Meeting Held on 7 November 2022  
Harbor Master Office**

**In Attendance:**

Karen Ristuben, Chair  
Rebecca Nagle  
Philip Storey  
Judith Hoglander  
Miranda Aisling  
Rebecca Reynolds  
David Fields, Community Development Coordinator

**Call to order at 9:02 am**

**Motion to accept September Meeting Minutes**

**Discussion of Arts, Culture, and Events Coordinator**

The job posting is with the administration and has not been posted yet. Will be posted before the end of the year.

**Cultural Planning Consultant**

David and Karen met to discuss bringing in Tom Borrup for a limited number of hours to start the planning process. The Mayor and David have approved working with Tom. Probably late December, early January to start that process. Want to bring in the staff person before the cultural consultant comes in. Having an initial plan from Tom Borrup will be good timing going into the strategic plan.

**Frank E. Davis Portrait**

Judith circled back to Susan Davis, the family is still interested in donating the painting to the city. Bring to the Committee for the Arts first and then to Lisa Mann, a conservator in Essex that many folks work with. We don't know how much this would cost yet. The painting is by William Paxton, a well-recognized portraitist from the Beaux Arts School. Next step is to ask Lisa how much it would cost to conserve.

**Tablet Rock/Stage Fort Park**

Three elements to address: stonework, bronze work, and an area under the bronze that is disfigured. Stonework is the most important to start with. Rebecca shared a proposal from Ivan Myjer. His work is \$9,400 and a rental of a lift for \$2,500 is also necessary. The bronze work is around \$3,000. The mineral tinting would cost around \$7,000. The total cost would be about \$22,000 and could be done prior to A Celebration of Place: The Cultural Heritage Day presented by the Gloucester 400+ Committee on October 8 & 9, 2023

Roger Armstrong raised \$15,000 for the work on tablet rock. The Mayor has spoken with Roger and the money is still there, no matter who does the restoration. We need to reconnect with Roger, Judith suggested that Karen does it. Rebecca R also suggested asking the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for off-cycle funding for the remaining \$7,000. The Committee for the Arts has received funding from CDC in the past for mural restoration. Because of the cost of the process, we would have to get three bids for the project if it were done by the city.

Miranda raised the Gloucester 400+ DEIA Committee's attention to the language on Tablet Rock and how historic bronze signs, including this one, tell white-washed settler colonial history. The committee discussed how to make sure that addressing the language in the sign with appropriate Native consultation was part of the conservation proposal and project and that this effort was ideally just step one towards a future installation or mural. Philip suggested adding additional signage.

*Table Rock Language: "On this site in 1623 a company of fishermen and farmers from Dorchester Eng. under the direction of Rev. John White founded the Massachusetts Bay Colony. From that time the fisheries, the oldest industry in the Commonwealth, have been uninterruptedly pursued from this point. Here in 1625 Gov Roger Conant by wise diplomacy averted bloodshed between contending factions one led by Myles Standish of Plymouth the other by Capt. Hewes, a notable exemplification of arbitration in the beginnings of New England. Placed by the Citizens of Gloucester in 1907."*

#### **Diane Chen Installation - Lost at Sea Project**

19 stainless steel boxes that will create mosaic panels with mortar and shards are being created by Diane Chen for City Hall. They are designed to go into concrete slabs along the handicap access way to city hall that are not strong enough to support it. There would need to be a separate armature that does not touch the wall that holds them up. Still looking into costs. The work identifies, as well as she can, everyone who has been lost in water. Diane worked with former Mayor Sefatia on the project using the Lost at Sea database. Diane has been working on this for five years. Karen read a letter shared by Diane with details on the project. The project will be put together at the Cape Ann Museum Green in January 2023.

For next steps, the committee will need specs, budget, funding sources, and timeline for installation. Karen will get back to Diane.

#### **Existing Ordinance and proposed changes**

The proposal to remove the Mayor from Sec 2-509 of the ordinance was already brought before the Ordinance & Administration Committee. The Mayor wants to speed up the specific ordinance change about composition. Other changes could come later.

For additional changes, draft a wire framework for Committee for the Arts Policies & Practices that would include a Public Art Policy, Poet Laureate Process, Public Spaces Process. Draft the wire framework by next meeting. Refer to the Policies & Practices in a changed committee ordinance.

Look towards removing section 2-514 on the Poet Laureate and including that language in the Policies & Practices. For the next meeting, draft new language on Sec 2-513 Duties and create a draft framework of the Committee for the Arts Policies & Practices. Could aim to bring a new package to O&A Committee in December.

**Suggested Changes for Sec. 2-509. - Composition; appointment and terms of members.**

Remove gender-based pronouns from the language in the ordinance. Remove the Mayor as a voting member, keep in as a non-voting member. Shift from 4 year terms to 3 year terms. Include language to allow for 2 associate members.

**Motion to approve changes for Sec. 2-509.**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 from 8:30 - 10:00 am**

**Move to adjourn at 10:13 am**