

Cultural District for Groton

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

3:20pm-4:21pm

Present: Joni Parker-Roach, Judy Romatelli, Julie Platt

Summary:

The meeting focused on the Cultural District application, discussing the need for updated information and compliance. Julie and Joni highlighted the importance of including local cultural and historical sites, such as Groton School, Lawrence Academy, and various galleries. They emphasized the need for clear definitions of cultural and recreational facilities, like the Groton Public Library and town fields. The group also considered potential fundraising ideas, such as reproducing a local resource book, and the importance of public amenities like parking and signage. They plan to refine the application, consult with local entities, and ensure accurate representation of the cultural district's assets.

Action Items

[] Joni to follow up with Destination Groton to determine the appropriate legal entity and tax ID number to use for the application.

[] Joni to reach out to the Groton School regarding potential inclusion in the cultural district

[] Julie to get a quote from Alphagraphics for small "Groton Guide" book

[] Judy to reach out to Carolyn to clarify the definition of "open to the public" for cultural facilities as well as to find out if there are limitations on area or square miles.

"Groton Guide" discussion

Julie shows a book created by Jane Bouvier in 2008, intended to be updated annually, but only one version was ever made.

Joni and Julie discuss the potential of using the book as a fundraiser for Prescott or the visitor center.

Joni wonders about creating branded items for the Groton Inn and other businesses to sell as a fundraiser.

They consider the cost of reproducing the book and reaching out to businesses for support.

Ownership and Legalities of the Cultural District Application

Julie and Joni discuss who should “own” the application, considering options like Destination Groton, Greg Sheldon, or Mark Haddad, Groton Town Manager.

They talk about the legalities of owning the application and the need for a tax ID number.

All agree Destination Groton should be the entity that “owns” and applies.

Defining the Cultural District Boundaries

Discussion regarding the boundaries of the cultural district, including Groton School and other local institutions.

All consider the inclusion of Groton School and its performance spaces in the cultural district.

Julie suggests that the organizations listed in the application district should be open to the public and have set hours for visits.

They discuss the importance of defining the district's boundaries and the types of facilities included.

Historical and Cultural Significance of Local Buildings

All begin to list historical and cultural buildings within the district, such as the Groton Public Library and Lawrence Academy.

They discuss the significance of the Art Farm and other historic buildings, even if they are not open to the public.

Judy suggests including the Art Farm in the narrative as a cultural asset.

Recreational and Performance Spaces

All list recreational and performance spaces within the district, such as the Groton School theater and the Rise Arts Collaborative. They discuss the inclusion of the Prescott Community Center as a cultural facility with both art and studio spaces. They consider the importance of having a balance of recreational and cultural spaces within the district.

Community Involvement and Public Amenities

The role of local businesses in enhancing the cultural district is discussed, such as sharing parking to augment public parking. They consider the importance of community involvement and public amenities in the district for instance the Women's Club and Garden Club in maintaining public space. All agree that community engagement and the role of local organizations will be helpful in the district's success.

Vision and Future Plans

Thinking ahead a vision is shared for the cultural district, including potential improvements like public transportation and infrastructure. They consider the possibility of a trolley service to enhance the cultural experience for visitors. They discuss the importance of having a clear vision and future plans for the cultural district's development.

Signage and Marketing

It is mentioned that the importance of clear and visible signage to attract visitors and enhance the cultural district's appeal.

Next Steps and Action Items

Joni will ask about the first three pages of the application with Destination Groton.

Joni will reach out to Groton School.

Judy will reach out to Carolyn at Mass Cultural Council for further input on the cultural district's boundaries and inclusion of certain facilities.

Julie suggests recording their thoughts separately and then editing them together for a cohesive narrative.

All agree to follow up on the tasks assigned and continue working on the application to ensure all necessary information is included.

Next meeting January 28, 2025, 3pm @ Periwinkle Glassworks.