

Cultural District for Groton

Tuesday, January 25, 2025

3:00pm-4:00

pm

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

Summary:

The meeting discussed the potential creation of a Groton Guidebook, which could be funded by local entities like the the Groton Inn and a grant. The guidebook could promote cultural destinations and be sold by a local entity such as the Groton Community School or the Groton Visitor Center. The group also explored involving the Groton School's galleries, which are open to the public except Wednesdays and holidays. They emphasized the importance of regional collaboration, mentioning the Town of Pepperell's new mural project. and the need for a centralized cultural events calendar for Groton and the immediate region. The meeting concluded with plans to focus on application pages next meeting, going through each question methodically to begin to form the Cultural District Application.

Action Items

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[] JONI: Reach out to Jane Bouvier to get information about the previous Groton guide book.

[] JULIE: Investigate how to create a centralized, user-friendly calendar of events for the town.

[] JONI: Contact Sean Kerrigan and Kate McCann who are

in the Communications Department at Groton School to get details on their public gallery hours and programming.

[] There will be a need to Follow up with Trisha Dufresne, the Town of Groton Treasurer, to confirm the process for managing any grant funds related to the cultural district application.

Groton Guide Book and Funding Sources

- Julie suggests that the Groton guide book could be a great idea for Destination Groton or Groton Visitor Center. Judy had mentioned that a local nursery school could make money from it as was done in Harvard, MA.
- Joni discusses the possibility of funding the guide book through a grant and suggests involving the Groton Inn, which could brand the guide book and potentially fund part of it.
- Joni explains the process of how the Groton Inn purchases local products and resells them, suggesting a similar model for the guide book.
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Reaching Out to Key Contacts

- Julie mentions the need to reach out to Jane Bouvier, who produced the guide book,
- Joni suggests taking a picture of the list of contacts and reaching out to them to see if they are still active and interested in the project.
- Joni mentions the need to check signage prices and the potential involvement of Alpha Graphics in the project.

Communication and Meeting Minutes

- Julie asks if Greg Sheldon wants her to send him meeting minutes, and Joni agrees to discuss this with him to see if he would like to receive them. Should the Cultural District minutes should be sent to the entire Destination Groton committee or just Greg Sheldon.

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Groton School and Public Engagement

- Joni reports on her conversation with Groton School about their galleries and public access, mentioning that the galleries are open every day except Wednesday and certain holidays.
- Joni explains that Groton School has a newsletter and social media to reach out to the community and invites them to their galleries.
- All discuss the importance of including Groton School in the cultural district and ensuring that the public knows about the gallery hours.

Historical Significance and Cultural District

- All discuss the historical significance of Groton, including its connection to notable figures like Ulysses Grant and Eleanor Roosevelt.
- There is importance in promoting Groton's cultural heritage and its role as a hub for regional cultural events.
- Promoting Groton's cultural heritage will benefit other communities and help elevate the region as a whole.

Regional Collaboration and Cultural Events

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- Discussion revolves around the potential for creating a centralized calendar for cultural events in Groton and the surrounding area.
- Joni mentions the success of events like the Winterfest and Grotonfest Spring and the need for more cultural events to attract visitors and support local businesses.
- All discuss the potential for funding a centralized calendar through grants and the importance of promoting regional cultural events.

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Meeting adjourned at 4:25pm.

