

Cultural District for Groton

Wednesday February 5, 2025

4pm-4:30pm

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

Summary:

The meeting focused on the development of Groton's cultural district. Key points included the need for contiguous boundaries, the inclusion of historical markers and buildings. The discussion also covered the importance of signage, with options for four different sign designs. The group emphasized listing all relevant cultural sites, even if not currently accessible, and the potential for including Groton Hill Music Center.

Action Items

[] Compile a full list of historical markers, galleries, performance spaces, and other cultural resources in the proposed Groton Cultural District.

[] Investigate the history and significance of specific buildings and properties for the Cultural District application.

[] Follow up with the Massachusetts Cultural Council to get the latest information on the cultural district application process and timeline.

Meeting Minutes:

Discussion on Cultural District Boundaries

- Julie and Judy discuss the importance of having contiguous boundaries for the cultural district.
- Joni suggests considering a specific square for the district and being flexible with the boundaries.
- Judy mentions the need to list everything that pertains to the district, even if it's not currently accessible.

All agree to the importance of including all significant historical and cultural sites within the district.

Signage and Historical Markers

Judy received information about the new signage requirements for cultural districts, including the choice of four different sign designs and the importance of consistent signage to maintain the district's identity.

Historical Sites and Buildings

Julie takes notes and all begin to list various historical sites and buildings within the district, beginning at the Prescott Common on Old Ayer Road.

All discuss the significance of the Grange and School Street in the cultural district.

Public Art and Rail Trail

Joni mentions the various public art installations along the rail trail, including murals and sculptures.

All agree about the importance of including public art in the cultural district.

There is a short discussion regarding the historical significance of the rail trail and its impact on the cultural district.

Cultural District Boundaries

Judy highlights the need for clear and consistent signage to delineate the district.

Next Steps:

There is a quick discussion regarding a title for the cultural district, such as the Groton Cultural District or Cultural District of Groton.

To ensure the cultural district boundaries are contiguous and inclusive:

- Consider including a larger square or area initially, then be flexible to cut back the boundaries if needed. This allows the ability capture all the relevant sites first.
- List everything that pertains to the district, even if not currently accessible. This acknowledges the full scope of cultural resources.
- Communicate closely with the Massachusetts Cultural Council to get feedback on the proposed boundaries and make adjustments as needed to meet their requirements for contiguity.
- Collaborate with the town and other stakeholders to identify all the important historical and cultural sites that should be included within the district boundaries.

The key is being comprehensive in the initial proposal, then working with the state agency to refine the boundaries as needed to create a contiguous, inclusive cultural district.