

**Hallowell Arts and Cultural Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 6:00-7:15 PM at the Harlow**  
**Minutes**

Present: Deb Fahy (Chair) Jonathan French (Secretary), Bob McIntire, Richard Bostwick, Kate Trembley, Julie Horn, Chris Cart

**A. Approval of January 29, 2020 Minutes**

There was a motion by Richard Bostwick, seconded by Julie Horn to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2020 meeting of the Committee. The motion passed.

**B. Organizational Updates**

The following updates were provided to the Committee:

- Row House: The Row House has an internship position available to help with the Historic Building Survey that will be advertised. March 14<sup>th</sup> there will be a pre-bicentennial celebration at the Old South Congregational Church from 2:00 – 4:00 PM with a presentation on Benjamin Vaughan and the creation of the state seal by Ron Kley. Earle Shettleworth will also be presenting about Hallowell’s quest to become the capital city.
- Gaslight Theater: “Last Gas,” a play by John Cariani, will be performed on March 13-15<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. On March 15<sup>th</sup>, there will be a matinee to recognize the bicentennial. The Theater will also be holding auditions for “Almost Cowgirls” later in March.
- Vision Hallowell : Discussion continues regarding the potential pocket park next to Central Street. Benches for the park may be available through the Friends of the Kennebec River Rail Trail.
- Maine Arts Commission: The Commission has had more than 100 submissions for bicentennial grants for this round, and will have another meeting in March to decide on the recipients. There is one final deadline for grant applications on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Vaughan Homestead : The Homestead submitted an application to the Maine 200 bicentennial grant program in collaboration with the Row House and Hubbard Free Library, for a program designed around the history of Hallowell’s competition for the state capital and the design of the state seal. The House tours will be focused on 1820 period in 2020. Recently, Hall-Dale Elementary School fourth graders participated in a unit about the history of the Kennebec ice harvest. They visited Cascade Pond in Vaughan Woods and experienced the harvesting of blocks of ice, which were the first cut from the pond since 1947.

**C. Maine Stone Workers Guild Granite Symposium**

The Maine Stone Workers Guild will be selecting the artists to participate in the Symposium this fall, and membership in the Guild will be required to participate. Guild members will be present at the March meeting for further discussion.

#### **D. Historic Hallowell Mural**

- Chris Cart said that he was working on mural on a part-time basis. He has received a fundraising grant through Kennebec Savings Bank for \$2500 that was matched from Hallowell businesses, and he received a \$2000 anonymous donation.
- The top section of the mural is painted, however he has redesigned the lower half based on new historic discoveries – such as the first petition by women to the United States Government in 1830. The lower half will also be more of a modern design.
- E.J. Perry will be providing the lift required to install the mural. Temperatures must be well over 50 degrees at night for installation because of the varnish that needs to be applied to the surface of the mural, so installation will likely not occur until late spring.
- Open Studios are still occurring every Saturday from 2:00-4:00 PM to see the mural progress.

#### **E. Public Art Policy**

- Julie Horn said that she had met with City Manager, Nate Rudy who had not reviewed it yet. The policy would need to be reviewed by subcommittee of the City Council before it went to the full Council to be accepted. Julie will review the policy and distribute to Committee members for final comments.
- It was discussed that other Maine cities are trying to pass ordinances for public art, however Portland is the only city that has actually passed an ordinance. Lewiston, Auburn, Ellsworth, Westbrook and Belfast are trying to work on ordinances.
- It was recommended that Hallowell develop a policy instead of an ordinance and this would be an ideal time for such a policy with the new Comprehensive Plan being drafted. The Planning Board also supports the idea of a policy for reference.
- Letters supporting a public arts policy will be requested from Anne Ball of the Maine Development Foundation and from the Maine Arts Commission.

#### **F. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee will be on March 25, 2020 at the Vaughan Homestead Annex with a focus on the upcoming Granite Symposium.

Submitted by Jonathan French, Secretary