

Montpelier Public Art Commission – Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday April 22, 2026 3:30 – 4:45 pm
Meeting in City Hall Manager Conference Room & via Zoom link below

Our discussion at the meeting is shown in Italics

In Attendance: *Megan R., Ward J., Matthew J., Eliot B. on Zoom, Jesse J., Rob H.*

Opening Process:

1. Call to order. *Done @ 3:35*
2. Approve minutes 2/18/26 *Rob motioned, Jesse 2nd., Unanimous approval*
3. Opportunity for “**Community Comment**” *None*
4. Items added to today’s Agenda on the spot
 - Proposal to do a mural with theme “Welcoming New Americans”
 - Find out why it’s not easy on the city website for two new members to apply.
Email sent to Evelyn by Matthew. Megan is still uncertain.
 - Discussion of why it’s so hard to get new commissioners onto the commission
5. Review and approve this meeting’s Agenda. *Motion by Rob, Jesse 2nd, Unanimous approval*

Projects for review:

1. **Signage program:** Megan, Ward and Jesse met with Montpelier Alive to discuss signage, and we agreed that our most recent sign for the Clothespin would be the model for both groups going forward. *They were done by Samal Signs in Essex.*
2. **Montpelier**
Note: at our last meeting we approved \$1,000 to get new signs going on existing works. *Our prioritization for new signs, and who will spirit the signs forward: 2 LMNOPi - by Jesse. The School Panels – by Rob. Lochlin and Ward’s piece over the river – by Ward., Shippee Mural – by Megan, Flags over River – by Rob. All of these will likely be building mounted and in the same format (size and look) and so should only cost around \$150. The commission will mount them.*
3. **Condition of existing Art:**
 - Eliot’s tryptic is worn. If replaced in place, if an image of the same size, we need to have an RFP so additional artists have the opportunity to use that space.

Our discussion led us to perusing doing a new image that will be stapled on top of the existing banner in place for the sake of cost and ease. Eliot will call Dan Clar to see about borrowing their cherry picker.

Rob makes a motion to allocation up to \$2k for the replacement of an image onto the existing frame. 2nd by Jesse, Unanimous approval. Jesse and Eliot to edit the old RFP, everyone to review, to be sent to city, MA and the Arts Commission for Posting. To be done this spring so the building owner currently interested may be able to get our support early this summer.

- Vines lights: We voted to spend up to \$300 on 4/30/25 to repair this, and S4 Lighting is a better source for lights than the hardware store. M.A. suggested uplighting, but this is too much work to coordinate in Ward's opinion. Let's discuss. *The decision was made to buy lights of better quality but in the same vine wrapping format rather than do up lighting due to the low level of the sculpture and the risk of damage to the lights by people, as well as the issue of having to affix that system to the bricks. Separately, MA asked about painting on the sidewalk, and we think that's great if done by them. Ward to order the lights and send to Matt, care of city hall.*
- Bike sculptures need to be looked at to see if need to remove. We previously approved \$1,200 to remove, but we've since had requests to upkeep them. *Everyone needs to go and have a better look prior to our next meeting and Rob will try and find the artist. Then we will decide their future.*
- Tumbling Blocks by Sabina at Transit Center. *The works there look good - two pieces says Ward.*
- The Hanes Memorial at MRHS is looking bad, did someone reach out to the school to see if they will repair it? *High School's piece, they need to care for it.*
- We were asked by the city about removing the Schuman pieces on Rabble Rouser. *Ward told Matthew that they are not ours to maintain and/or remove.*

4. **New Art Priorities**

- Bill Copland would like to apply for a **Building Owner's Matching Fund Grant** to do a Parking Arrow on the side of his building. Do we get that grant program updated and accept his application? *Yes, we will update it and they should apply.*
- **Empty storefront windows.** Elliot has ideas, and John Snell has plans, but neither have been presented to us. *Eliot and Jesse are working on finding a storefront. To be photo portraits. Could become a program, but this is a test.*

- **New Shaws Mural:** on river side of building, Montpelier Alive offered to kick this off? On Katie if she wants. *Could be a New Americans piece, but we're all concerned that Pomerlou Real estate was not interested in politics, and so we've charged Eliot with finding another location for this project.*
 - **Gateway Mural Project:** Caroline Shapiro would like to help keep it going. \$2,500 was approved by MPAC at last meeting. *We do not yet have a commission champion of this project for this summer*
5. **Application to the commission:** *Evelyn Prim is going to add the vacancy application to the website so Eliot's 2 new commissioner folks can apply. There is still uncertainty on Megan's part that she was officially approved to be on the commission*
 6. **Request to restore mural behind Walgreens,** we've received a request to restore it. *None of us have prioritized it yet.*
 7. **Deaccession** of pieces that are aged: Berg banner, Schuman works
 8. **Public Art Map and registry on line.** A Google map was made by Megan. Montpelier Alive wants to work to integrate the Art in town into theirs of the Lighting the Bridges. *Megan will continue to discuss with MA about adding the art to their existing one or doing a new one at a reduced cost w/ Vivian. MA was thinking of needing two separate maps, which several of us wondered why not integrate into one and not have them separate. Megan to try and get this one.*
 9. **Catalogue of available buildings** for public art placement opportunities. *Elliot was interested in this project. Let's build that list.*
 10. **Elections** of new Chair and Treasurer. *Not done*

Closing Process:

1. Next Meeting time: *Wed. June 3 3:30*
2. Adjourned *at 4:45*