

Nashua Arts Commission
Meeting minutes
May 12, 2026

In attendance:

Jennifer Annand

Faith Mandravelis

Judy Carlson

Jane Marquis

Tina Cassidy

Stephanie Moll

Chuck Emmons

Lindsay Rinaldi

Paula Lochhead

Lauren Spira-Savett

Guest: Mike McDowell, potential commissioner

City reps: Liz Hannum, Alderman-at-Large Amber Morgan, Kathleen Palmer

Absent: Sara Ceaser, Carol Robey

Call to Order: 8:01 am. **Roll Call of Members.**

Motion to Approve: Apr. minutes – Motion to Approve was made by **Judy** and seconded by **Paula**, all in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business

Project Proposal Update: **Faith** gave an update on the sub-com's work on preparing to present the proposal to the Board of Aldermen for the allocation of the commission's \$10k project funds funding the musicians and doing some NAC marketing during a Summer Music Series (Renaissance Park, Third Thursdays downtown, Farmers Market) – via Downtown Nashua Association. **Jenn** suggested including mention of the quantity of paid musicians this will serve, and that it is creating jobs for them. **Lindsay** suggested that the music school could connect young people with apprenticeship under **Faith**, as she has volunteered to do some sound engineering for the series, thereby also adding value in the youth artistic community tangentially with this project.

Ren Park Mural Update: **Lauren** and **Judy** briefed the commission on press/publicity endeavors and coverage, as well as the muralist's projects with the Nashua students.

Arts Kiosk: **Liz** projects presented options on a potential downtown arts info kiosk, ranging from an analog one to two digital options, and the associated costs for purchase and ongoing annual usage subscriptions. There was discussion on whether or not this commission would partner with the Downtown Improvement Committee on a purchase. Liz will share quotes with members.

CONT.

New Business

ArtCity: **Liz** gave a brief synopsis and handout (attached) regarding a proposed event called ArtCity. This would involve improvement of the Heritage Rail Trail in the Tree Streets neighborhoods, via an event with artists working live, with music, vendors, food, etc. There is much to discuss as to partnerships, sponsorships, costs, etc. **Liz** will send the proposer the commission's questions, and will send the digital proposal to the commission. Link: [Copy of ARTCITYNASHUApitch.pdf - Google Drive](#)

Commissioner Terms, Elections: **Lindsay** had a brief overview discussion on repeat-term longevity and potentials for turnover of commissioners, to enable new people with new perspectives, energy, etc., to have an opportunity to serve and grow the scope of the commission's work. She encouraged people to consider transitioning to allow new interested parties to join and serve the arts community in new ways.

Paula mentioned the upcoming event the Nashua Historical Society is partnering with Freedom's Way to present. Info flyer attached; more info at link: [Declaring Independence: Then & Now – Nashua, NH | Freedom's Way National Heritage Area](#)

Motion to Adjourn: 9:25 am, made by **Lauren**, seconded by **Jenn**, all in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: **8 am Tuesday, June 9, 2026**

attachment



1776 then



I N D E P E N D E N C E

Declaring Independence: Then & Now
Thurs, June 4, 2026

now

2026

May 6, 2026 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nashua Historical Society Presents *Declaring Independence: Then & Now*

A Powerful REV250 Live Performance of the Words That Helped Shape a Nation

Nashua Historical Society invites the public to experience a unique and thought-provoking live performance event this June as part of the nationwide commemoration of America's 250th anniversary.

On Thursday, June 4, the Society will host two performances of *Declaring Independence: Then & Now* at 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM at the Florence H. Speare Memorial Museum, 5 Abbott Street, Nashua, NH. This free public program brings the dramatic story of the Declaration of Independence to life through historic words, modern reflections, and the voices of the people who lived through extraordinary times.

In January 1776, New Hampshire became the first colony to adopt its own constitution — a bold act that helped pave the way for the Declaration of Independence just months later. *Declaring Independence: Then & Now* explores that revolutionary moment through a compelling blend of primary source material, costumed readers, and contemporary commentary, revealing how citizens in New Hampshire and Massachusetts communities debated the risks, hopes, and meaning of independence.

Presented by actors in period dress, the performance combines historical storytelling with an annotated reading of the Declaration itself, inviting audiences to consider both the courage of 1776 and the enduring relevance of the nation's founding ideals today.

The Nashua performances are part of a larger series of 15 community presentations taking place across the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area during the spring and summer of 2026 in honor of the REV250 commemoration. "We are proud to bring this important program to Nashua," says Paula Lochhead, the committee chairperson. "New Hampshire played a critical role in the movement toward independence, and this performance offers audiences a meaningful opportunity to connect with that history in a vivid and personal way."

The Florence H. Speare Memorial Museum is fully accessible, air-conditioned, and comfortable for summer audiences. Admission is FREE and open to the public. Questions? 603-883-0015

Declaring Independence: Then & Now. Thursday, June 4, 2026. Speare Museum, 5 Abbott St., Nashua, NH 03064

Space is limited, and advance registration is required. Please sign up for one of two performances:

5:00 PM Performance:

https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/mFmPSoFWGw7835HWJi-eGw

7:00 PM Performance:

https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/fz4hTUq2RtQDb_mXv4oOoA

Celebrate REV250 with the Nashua Historical Society and discover how the voices of 1776 still speak to us today.
#REV250 #nashuahistory #Nashua #NHHistory