

PUBLIC HEARING
SALE OF TAYLOR BUILDING

Kendra Amaral

From: Contact form at Kittery ME <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2022 4:03 PM
To: Kendra Amaral
Subject: [Kittery ME] Kittery Art Association / Taylor Bldg. (Sent by Celina Adams, [REDACTED])

Hello kamaral,

Celina Adams [REDACTED] has sent you a message via your contact form (<https://www.kitteryme.gov/user/28/contact>) at Kittery ME.

If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at <https://www.kitteryme.gov/user/28/edit>.

Message:

Dear Councilors:

We're writing to signal our support of the Town's intention to sell the Taylor building to the Kittery Art Association (KAA). Art contributes to vibrancy in a way that is distinct from commerce, as we have seen with The Dance Hall. It attracts diverse visitors and bolsters economic activity. So we are very much in favor of this development in the Foreside.

We also understand KAA will contribute some space for parking, which is important. We would additionally ask the KAA to make a reasonable contribution to theTown in lieu of property tax. The Taylor building is a key property in the Foreside and it seems fair for KAA to voluntarily contribute to Town services.

Having the KAA in the Foreside will culturally enrich us all.

Sincerely,
Celina Adams
Cameron Wake

Kendra Amaral

From: Contact form at Kittery ME <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2022 9:20 PM
To: Kendra Amaral
Subject: [Kittery ME] KAA purchase of the Taylor Building (Sent by Paul Bonacci, [REDACTED])

Hello kamaral,

Paul Bonacci ([REDACTED]) has sent you a message via your contact form (<https://www.kitteryme.gov/user/28/contact>) at Kittery ME.

If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at <https://www.kitteryme.gov/user/28/edit>.

Message:

Hi Kendra,

See below for our support of the KAA purchase of the Taylor building, sent to the town councilors.

Hello Councilperson,

We are sending this email in support of the Kittery Art Associations' (KAA) purchase of the Taylor Building. The Taylor Building is in the heart of the Foreside, and a critical piece of the continued and sustainable growth in downtown Kittery. As a non profit arts group they will add to the established arts groups already here. As an established arts organization they have the experience and know how to be a successful addition to our wonderful downtown. They will be offering community based programming and would also be a great new neighbor to the Rice Library when it reopens later this year. We believe that sustainable growth is needed in the Foreside, to avoid the overbuilding that plagues Portsmouth's downtown. It is clear that arts groups contribute to local economies. As a community based arts non profit KAA will add to our downtown mix of the Dance Hall with their fantastic programming, and the Buoy Gallery, recognized as one of the best art galleries in Maine. We believe that the addition of the KAA will contribute to the continued growth of the retail businesses in the Foreside. Bringing more local's and tourists into the Foreside.

We appreciate your consideration to approve the sale of the Taylor Building to the Kittery Art Association.

Thank you,

Lucy Schlaffer & Paul Bonacci
ARQ Architects
1 Government Street
Kittery, Maine 03904
207-439-5286

Building Owners (Landlords of Buoy Gallery + The Black Birch)
2 Government Street
Kittery, Maine 03904

Don't sell our Kittery, Maine's Taylor Building.

SPJ <

Wed 2/23/2022 8:30 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Kittery Town Council and ALL. Please record and also read aloud. and share, thank you..

For decades as a native artist, I have attempted to show my work via Kittery Art Association exhibitions to no avail.

I have been insulted and given unsubstantiated reasons, like I must belong to the association and agree to outrageous commissions of over 30% if my art sells. Worse is my art work must be evaluated as being only the type which Kittery Art Association LIKES.

I have been insulted along with my art work and denied showing, and now they want to buy a town building to wallow in their discriminatory harmful acts against real artists.

Their very application in order to show one's art is invasive, humiliating, and filled with demands of personal and other questions which have nothing to do with art nor determining what is a product of real art.

Over 20 years ago Portsmouth Herald Newspaper printed and sided with me on these very matters, and wrote a valid commentary of truth.

I gave copies of that article recently to KAA via Kittery Recreation Center and to Town Manager & Council.

The result was denying me entry into the bi centennial art design stating it was not a digital computer-generated design ! Falsehoods using "Kittery" in it's name, and/ or "Art" must be restricted.

By the way, My true hand created art entry was taken but never returned to me and I want my art submission back .

My painting rendition of the new Memorial Bridge was not accepted but all other entries were accepted and displayed up for sale at the Kittery Community Center, whether created by others or maybe one or no local artists.

How would you like to work at your job and someone steals and keeps your efforts without paying you nor returning whatever they snatched under the disguise of soliciting art entries?

As far as I see and have witnessed, KAA is incompetent, biased, and discriminatory and the Town of Kittery should not sell any building for continuation of that type of non-American set ups.

Furthermore, KAA charges very high commission / fees when a piece of art is sold; is obnoxious and unfair, and unnecessary nasty practices against real artists and real pieces of art, and thus are against Kittery's residents who are real artists like myself.

Kittery Art Asso. already has a so called art establishment in Kittery Point with financial donors and getting away with its unadmirable antics.

It is not honorable to allow sale of a town building to an association or organization who uses the name" Kittery" to gain funds and misuse or judge real artists' work to the extent of incompetence in not being able to even identify what is art nor feeling a requirement to identify art.

Getting a kick out of discrimination under the name of Kittery Art Association must stop

The Town of Kittery can get all kinds of private, state and federal grants for it's own art gallery at Taylor Building, and it doesn't need to sell the building. We residents want to keep that site.

There should be no hurry to sell Taylor Building when Kittery should keep it as "our" own place .

We Kittery citizens are already stuck with a false need for a horrible invasive attachment to the old artistic Rice Public Library, which is ruined forever and it's very artistic architecture, cracked, destabilized, and destroyed under total frantic actions of duping the public.

It's appropriate to mention this here because the Talyor Building was our sufficient 2nd library and we never needed our diminishing open spaces used as an unattractive square attachment to the historical old Rice Building - but rather could have been used as a park or place to rest and contemplate, OR more importantly for a place to create art.

There's no such opportunity now and the only people who benefit are those whose pay checks increased along with increasing their retirement benefits.

Kittery Art Association is absurdly cliquey and pompous to the extent it should not be using KITTERY in it's name to do it's discriminatory practices against local artist in the worse dogmatic ways.

Why doesn't the Town of Kittery take it's time and stop it's hysterical need to change?

We are talking about the oldest town in Maine and in USA, and need to preserve and stop destruction.

Maybe eventually just convert Taylor Building into a free art gallery with no discrimination against local artists and be a truly admirable place known as **"Town of Kittery Art Gallery" instead of being sold and run by a pretentious Art Association which got away with using Kittery in it's name?**

Grants galore are available for the Town of Kittery and time should be taken to obtain ongoing funding. Take time to consider keeping and using **Taylor Building as belonging to KITTERY forever**, and for a potential "center of the arts"; like a meeting place for artistic endeavors and promotions; a place to bring new peaceful harmony in creation by simply allowing various local artists to show and sell their work.

Keep it simple. Put art first this time, **AND KEEP TAYLOR BUILDING** entirely belonging to Kittery forever.

The building can be used for artists to meet or use the space for projects within Kittery's means.

But don't sell it, the Taylor Building is very unique representing the era it was built in downtown Kittery.

Kittery needs to keep TAYLOR BUILDING forever as it's own piece of architecture - and ponder the peaceful uses for the future.

Thank you , Suzy Courage Johnson

February 24, 2022

Dear Council Chairwoman Spiller, Vice-Chairman Dow, Members of the Council, Town Manager Amaral and Town Staff,

I am writing to urge your support for the sale of the Taylor Building to the non-profit Kittery Art Association (KAA). This conclusion was reached as I learned about the several years of thoughtful and thorough meetings involving a broad representation of key parties, strong public support (via a Kittery Community survey), and the Towns' stated goal of selling Taylor to a non-profit cultural organization.

This sale serves community and economic development goals by adding an established, beloved non-profit arts organization into the vibrant, growing cultural and economic mix of the Foreside. For the Kittery Art Association, the purchase and move to the Taylor building provides an opportunity to expand its public exhibition space, arts workshops and possibly offer much-needed artist studios. Selling the Taylor Building to the KAA offers the Kittery community and visitors further reason to spend time exploring, eating, and enjoying this special area.

I own my home in the Foreside, am a member of the Kittery Art Association, and frequent the businesses and restaurants in this area. The Kittery Art Association and its programs and exhibits will add an exciting, year-round dimension to the Foreside. I urge your support of the sale of the Taylor Building to the Kittery Art Association.

Sincerely,

Christina A. White

19 Whipple Rd.

Town Council hearing on Feb 28 regarding KAA purchase of the Taylor building

Anita Loomis <[REDACTED]>

Thu 2/24/2022 8:19 PM

To: town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Dear Kittery Town Council:

I want to take this opportunity to voice my strong support for allowing the Kittery Art Association to purchase the Taylor building. Although I've only been a Kittery resident and business owner for (nearly) two years, I have been part of the art world for the past forty. Kittery is a beautiful, warm, welcoming community with a very rich, vibrant and deeply supportive art culture and reservoir of fine artists, and the KAA has a long history of anchoring local arts. Having such an inclusive and vibrant arts organization more centrally located and more accessible would benefit the entire community by enhancing Kittery's creative economy not only by increasing accessibility for art enthusiasts but by incentivising foot traffic to local restaurants and other nearby businesses. It is a cultural and educational organization whose close proximity to the library would be very appropriate. I am hopeful that the council will vote in favor of the KAA's purchase of the Taylor property.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Anita Loomis
Kittery resident, owner of Loomis Gallery, and a KAA artist member.
121 Dennett Rd. Kittery

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Kittery Art Association

Vance MOrgan <[REDACTED]>

Fri 2/25/2022 11:59 AM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

The Kittery Art Association has always been a center for community activities, including art classes, play readings, music series, poetry classes and more, in addition to our on going art exhibits.

Now we have an opportunity to move to a new location where we can continue to provide these activities to an expanded community.

Vance Morgan, long time supporter of the arts and KAA and former board member (including president and treasurer).
Anne Morgan, supporter of the arts

Kittery Art Assoc Taylor Building Purchase

Katie Clark <[REDACTED]>

Fri 2/25/2022 2:32 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

I would like to add my support to the Kittery Art Association's ability to purchase the Taylor Building (old library). This would allow our Kittery business area to become even more community focused, more culturally rich, and that's good business for everyone in the "downtown."

It would make a nice complement to our new library enhancements, and is keeping with thriving and very talented art community that is ever growing.

Taylor Building/KAA

Ellie Kirkpatrick <[REDACTED]>

Sat 2/26/2022 7:57 AM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

It's absolutely wonderful that the KAA may be moving from Kittery Point to down town Kittery ... right in the center of Kittery life.

I have not been able to visit KAA present location because of the exterior staircase is a formidable challenge, and therefore I have missed so much.

I will be signing up to volunteer at KAA, if they need my help, as I do now for Friends of Rice Library... which I will continue doing after the move.

It's all very exciting Progress for Rice, KAA, and the whole town !

Ellie kirkpatrick .
One Bowen Road
Kittery
Sent from my iPhone

Sale of Taylor Building Discussion - 2/28/22 Town Council Meeting

Peter Lamb <[REDACTED]>

Sun 2/27/2022 8:51 AM

To: town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Cc: Judy Spiller <JSpiller@kitteryme.org>; Faith Harrington <[REDACTED]>;

Dear Council,

We urge approval of the Kittery Art Association proposal to purchase the Taylor Building from the Town.

Bringing the Art Association to the Foreside signals an important commitment by the Town to maintain the Taylor parcel for public benefit. We see the KAA as one of Kittery's key long term cultural partners working to enhance quality of life and build community through the arts.

As long time members of the KAA, we believe in the strength of the organization to take on this move. We know the increased size of this highly visible central location will bring not only new programming, but also new members and supporters.

We applaud the good work of the Taylor Building Committee and we hope the Town Council will act quickly to approve the sale and on favorable terms to further ensure KAA's successful transition to the Foreside.

Sincerely,

Peter Lamb and Faith Harrington

Peter Lamb & Faith Harrington
3 Sea Oaks Lane
Gerrish Island
Kittery Point, ME 03905
USA
(603) 848-3000 - mobile/text

Living on the traditional lands of the Abenaki, Pennacook and Wabanaki Peoples past and present, I acknowledge and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations.

in favor of KAA's purchase of the Taylor Building!!

Kim Burke <[REDACTED]>

Sun 2/27/2022 9:58 AM

To: town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Members of the Kittery Town Council,

I'm unable to attend the meeting tomorrow evening so I am writing in favor of the Kittery Art Association's purchase of the Taylor Building. As the district's high school visual art teacher, I strongly feel this new location would provide more accessibility to our students, and visibility of art and culture to the Kittery community. Below is the comment I provided for the RFP back in September.

The KAA is very supportive of Kittery's student artists from kindergarten through high school. Students of all ages proudly exhibit their artwork in the annual K-12 art show, and attending this exhibition has become an exciting tradition for many families and friends of the student artists. The KAA funds annual scholarships to graduating seniors looking to pursue the arts beyond Traip Academy, and also supports other arts enrichment programs, such as the visiting artist series.

Having the KAA located at the Taylor building would contribute greatly to the cultural vitality within the Foreside. Being in this centralized location would increase accessibility to students, families, and the general public. Being within walking distance from Traip Academy would create opportunities for field trip/workshop access during the school day, helping us pursue our missions to further connect students to the surrounding Kittery community.

Thank you,
Kim Burke

--

Kimberly Burke
Art Department
R.W. Traip Academy
207.439.1121 ext 167
12 Williams Avenue
Kittery, Maine 03904

Kittery Art Association/Taylor Building

Maine Meat <[REDACTED]>

Sun 2/27/2022 3:15 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Hello Councilors,

My name is Shannon Hill and I am a Kittery resident as well as co-owner of Maine Meat (MEat) in the Foreside. I'm writing in support of the Kittery Art Association's purchase of the Taylor building.

The Foreside has seen phenomenal growth over the past decade and provides a quaint hub for retail, dining and entertainment (Buoy Gallery & the Dance Hall). The addition of the Kittery Art Association would be a boost for the arts in the Foreside and would also have synergistic cohesion within the community.

Thanks so much for the opportunity,
Shannon Hill

Kittery Art Association

PAULINE LECUYER <[REDACTED]>

Sun 2/27/2022 6:30 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

My husband and I would like to encourage the Town of Kittery to approve the proposed sale of the Taylor building to the Kittery Art Association. Repurposing the children's library as a center for the Arts in the Foreside seems to be a perfect fit.

Respectfully,
Pauline Lecuyer
Francis Luerssen
100 Shepards Cove Rd
F202
Kittery, ME

Kendra Amaral

From: Matt Brock <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2022 12:20 PM
To: Judy Spiller-Personal
Cc: Kendra Amaral
Subject: Support sale of Taylor building to KAA

To Kittery Town Council:

As a member of the Taylor building committee, which unanimously recommended that the Town prioritize the sale of the Taylor building to a non-profit arts or cultural organization, I strongly urge that the Council approve the purchase and sale agreement, as submitted by the Kittery Art Association, for the sale of the Taylor building to KAA. I believe the current proposal falls squarely within the terms recommended by the Committee.

In addition, with the upcoming opening of the new library addition, the Council has a unique opportunity to further expand the cultural and educational opportunities available to Kittery citizens by bringing the KAA to a central Foreside location. The synergy between these two new offerings will not only enhance art and culture in Town but also bring more people to the Foreside, and likely provide additional significant revenue to Foreside restaurants and other businesses.

Finally, the Council should explore shared parking opportunities with KAA to further benefit the Town. And to protect the Town's and the public's interests, the Council should consider including a Town right of first refusal or similar in the agreement, in the unlikely event KAA decided in the future to sell the Taylor building.

Thank you for your consideration.

Matt Brock, Kittery Point

support of Kittery Art Association

ChiiChii Kuo <[REDACTED]>

Sun 2/27/2022 11:03 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

To Whom It May Concern,

Kittery Art Association has made a great effort to help our local artists. We wish they could move to a more convenient location and grow our community and artists.

Thank you

ChianChii

Kittery art association support

elaine fuller <[REDACTED]>

Mon 2/28/2022 8:02 AM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Dear counselors,

I am writing in support of the Kittery Art Association's occupying the Taylor building in Kittery Foreside.

From the first months that I arrived in Kittery fifteen years ago I have been a member of the Kittery Art Association and have participated as an instructor and in gallery shows.

The Association is inclusive, encouraging all ages and abilities to participate in the many activities that they offer. The atmosphere and quality of the group is something to be proud of.

I know first hand that other Art Associations look to Kittery's for ideas and guidance.

The Association's occupying the Taylor building would be an enormous asset to our neighborhood complementing other fine art establishments.

Studies have shown that supporting the arts provides communities with added benefits for businesses as people come to participate in cultural activities. Culture enhances the reputation of a community in the same way that fine restaurants do. We have a unique neighborhood that I am grateful to be part of and know that Kittery Art Association in the Taylor building will enhance the reputation further.

Please support the Kittery Art Association in their endeavor to increase their visibility and vision for our community.

Sincerely,

Elaine Xenelis Fuller
The Red Door Pottery Studio
Www.reddoorpottery.com
603 502-1066

The Taylor Building

Kelly Hamilton <[REDACTED]>

Mon 2/28/2022 11:14 AM

To: town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

To Whom It May Concern:

As a neighbor to the Taylor Building, I would like nothing more than to see it transformed into the new home of the Kittery Arts Association. Over the years, our town has done such a wonderful job of resisting the commercial rush that has overtaken Portsmouth. Turning this space into a home for the arts would only help reinforce this direction.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

All the best,
Kelly Hamilton

General Public Comment

Kendra Amaral

From: BRJ WSPLLC <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 9:54 AM
To: Kendra Amaral
Cc: Karen Estee; Liz Beebe; Brahm Bourque
Subject: Victualer's Licenses

Hi, Kendra and Karen:

Please note that I sent a message online to the Council, and hope that you continue to advocate for a change from council to administrative approval for Victualer's License approvals for mobile vendors.

Thank you.

Barbara Jenny

Manager

Working Stiff Properties LLC

Green Brook LLC

94 Pleasant St

Portsmouth NH 03801

TO: Kittery Town Council

FROM: Barbara Jenny, property owner 230 US1 Bypass

DATE: 2/24/22

SUBJECT: administrative approval for food truck operators

Dear Council Members:

I have contacted Kendra's and Karen's offices on multiple occasions, and it as my understanding they would put this before you.

I founded the Kittery Food Truck Pod in 2019, and soon discovered the challenge in hosting vagabond food trucks. Licensed and inspected operators would contact me about joining our pod for a few days or weeks, but I had to deny them entry as they did not have a Kittery Victualer's License.

I would instruct the operators on the town's process, and even offer to pay the Victualer's License application fee. But the three-weeks-plus timeline—which was even frustratingly longer in the summer months when the council takes a

break—certainly did not accommodate this commercial effort. Can food truckers plan ahead? Sure, and some do. But that is not the common business model of most creative food truck chef/owners.

The pod business and the community have since lost out on enjoying a plethora of diverse and vibrant dining opportunities. Many towns (including Wells) offer walk up administrative licenses to vendors who can pay a small fee and show that they have passed DHHS inspections and possess up-to-date required state permits and licensing.

I urge you to seriously consider making the Victualer’s license application an administrative process for food truck vendors. I have watched the council time and time again approve such licenses at council meetings, taking up time—but actually not too much as these approvals are routinely gone through in a cursory manner with little to no discussion. While you may think such rapid-fire approval makes it an efficient process in meetings, please take note that you are making businesses wait for week and weeks during the most lucrative season for that approval, and before they can start earning income and adding to the vibrancy of our collective businesses on the Mural Building property.

Thank you—

Barbara Jenny