

TOWN OF NEWFANE, VERMONT

PROJECT: CREATING SPACES TO BE TOGETHER

The concept: Creating spaces

We would like to invite artists to submit proposals that would create a place that encourages people to stop, rest, talk, socialize, be together. We have six sites set aside and we would like to ask artists to submit an idea for one or two of those sites. No artist will be awarded more than two sites. Perhaps the idea will be to create a bench; perhaps it is to create a seating area; perhaps it is something completely different in design. We welcome all ideas as long as they meet the requirements detailed below.

The sites are: TBD

Each site will be visible from the road so you can see people who are relaxing and join them. The sites will have a view so while sitting there, you can enjoy our beautiful surroundings. All of the sites will be on Town owned land or other public properties such as the Newfane Commons (owned by the Court house).

Design specifications:

- Each site should be able to accommodate four people who are seated. If you are proposing a bench, for example, that would indicate needing a bench that is eight-feet long.
- It should be comfortable and invite relaxation.
- It should be welcoming to young people, older people, people with disabilities.
- The design can be whimsical or humorous; traditional or contemporary.
- We are interested in expressing the creativity that abounds here in Newfane. We are looking for designs that are new but make sense for the settings we have chosen. We also appreciate the tried-and-true designs – a beautifully proportioned bench that comfortably seats four friends can work just as well.
- The artist should specify whether their design is best suited for one specific site or if it can work in any of the proposed sites.
- The artist should consider how their design will be installed. Does it need to be anchored in concrete? Should there be plantings or gravel added to cover the concrete?
- A spot should be included in the design to list everyone who participated in the design and making of the piece.

Construction considerations:

- The pieces will be outside year-round. They need to be weatherproof, strong, long-lasting and durable.
- Any material can be used as long as it meets these criteria.
- The pieces will need to be anchored to their site in some manner so they cannot be moved or taken away. *Note: The artist will be responsible to build the piece and transport it the site. The Town will be responsible for the final installation working alongside the artist.*

Available materials:

- When the original Arch Bridge was demolished, the steel supports were saved. These are available to any of the selected artists free of charge if they would like to incorporate them into their designs.
- Jeff Chevalier has a large collection of wood and can donate wood to any of the selected artists free of charge. (Jeff has also volunteered use of his sawmill if that would be a help to one of the artists.)

Who can participate:

- Anyone!!
- There is a small bonus in the selection process that favors Newfane residents but anyone in the region is welcome to participate.
- We especially value collaboration and see the building of these sites as a wonderful way to get townspeople to work together in new ways. Perhaps a Girl Scout troop has an idea and wants to ask some craftspeople to help them realize their plans. Perhaps an artist wants to work with a group of students from NewBrook Elementary or Leland and Gray to develop a design and build it. Perhaps the NewBrook Volunteer Fire Department wants to submit an idea and build it as a team. We welcome and encourage these collaborations.
- No one from the Selection committee can submit a proposal.
- If anyone who submits a proposal is a close relative or lives in the same household with one of the members of the Selection committee, that member will be asked to recuse themselves from voting on that submission.

Selection process:

The Selectboard will ask up to eight people to join the Selection committee.

Scoring rubric:

Each submission will be scored using the following rubric totaling 30 points.

Points will be given for each of the following criteria:

1. At least one of the participants is from Newfane (1 point)
2. Plan to incorporate steel from Arch Bridge (1 point)
3. The project involves more than one artist or a collaboration of multiple people (3 points)
4. The materials meet the criteria of being weatherproof and long lasting (3 points)
5. The project creates a welcoming feeling (5 points)
6. The project has a pleasing aesthetic quality (5 points)
7. The project is feasible to be built by the artist(s) within the requested timeframe (3 points)
8. The project is easy to install and has limited maintenance requirements (3 points)
9. The project works well within the proposed site (3 points)
10. The project is safe, there are no sharp edges or other safety concerns where someone could be injured (3 points)

Cost:

The Town is offering a budget of \$2,000 per site to each artist or team of artists.
The Town will budget an additional \$500 per site to cover the cost of installation.

This represents a total investment of \$15,000 for the project.