



## Town of Strafford Arts & Events Council – A Master Plan Subcommittee

**MEETING:** ARTS & EVENTS COUNCIL- A SUBCOMITTEE of the TOWN OF STRAFFORD PLANNING BOARD

**MEETING DATE:** (Inaugural meeting) January 25, 2024, 2:00-3:00pm

**MEETING PLACE:** Hill Library

**COUNCIL:**

**Chair:** Susan Ryan (603-321-0163 = cell phone or text) (SuzRyan1@Gmail.com)

**Council Members Attending:** Susan Ryan, Risa Winter Ceskavich ([Rceskavich@Gmail.com](mailto:Rceskavich@Gmail.com)), Kaitlin Whitcher LaBreck ([Kaitlin@ProfoundRealEstate.com](mailto:Kaitlin@ProfoundRealEstate.com))

**Absent members:** Cristyn Black ([CristynBlack@gmail.com](mailto:CristynBlack@gmail.com)), Daniel Dupee ([Bowlakerentals@yahoo.com](mailto:Bowlakerentals@yahoo.com)), Kelly Kilgallon ([Kelly@Taphousemedia.com](mailto:Kelly@Taphousemedia.com))

**Public in attendance:** None

### MINUTES

**2:10** *Call Meeting to order, Introductions and Interests:*

Those in attendance provided brief personal/professional backgrounds and reasons for being interested in this Council. All 3 present are town residents and hope to enrich the community through the addition of arts and events to complement the work already being done by the many various organizations currently producing events and community based activities around town. All were thanked for their interest in being on this Council.

**2:20** *Master Plan review for Arts Council Mission:*

The Council reviewed the various places where the potential focus of this Council's work has already been documented. They are varied and were distributed to Council members in advance of this meeting via email. The 3 sources include 1) the Master Plan itself, 2) an article outlining the various Master Plan subcommittees in the September 2023 Community Calendar and 3) materials handed out during the December 5, 2023 Town Planning Committee meeting. Each of these materials varies a bit so the Council decided to review these materials, including the full Master Plan online, and withhold further discussion and definition of this Council's purpose, goals and mission until a future upcoming meeting. This will also allow absent members to fully participate in those definitions.

**2:40** *Converse about introducing this Council and gathering intel to coordinate with other entities in town that offer/coordinate events. (I.e. Library, BLCOA, BLCC/Grange, Churches, School, Christmas in Strafford, Fire Dept., Women's Club, Garden Club, Waldron Store, others):*

The group discussed ensuring that we endeavor to be clear about not wanting this Council to compete with any other events and activities already in place around town. We don't want any other groups to feel as though this Council is taking on or competing with work they are already doing in any way. We could eventually do things to complement other activities, but we'll cross that bridge if/when the opportunity presents itself. The Council split up



## Town of Strafford Arts & Events Council – A Master Plan Subcommittee

the work of contacting the various entities to gather information on how each organization is planning their full calendar year of activities.

Risa will contact: Garden Club, Historical Society, Schools in town as well as Coe Brown.

Kaitlin will contact: Fire/Police Department, BLCOA, BLCC/Grange (to include Christmas in Strafford organizers)

Susan will contact: Library, Womens Club, Churches, Bow Lake Inn (related only to Farmer Market)

We recognized that all contacts and conversation may not be completed prior to our next meeting but all will endeavor to reach out and introduce our work and gather information on events and activities being planned so as to bring that back to this Council. This intel would allow us to ensure we don't replicate events already planned but to compliment them by adding new arts-based opportunities around town.

**2:55** *Agenda items for future meetings and future meeting dates, locations, times:*

*Future agenda items discussed include:*

- 1) How to promote this Council-perhaps via a Facebook page, town website or other means.
- 2) We discussed the question of what happened to the Lakeside Players, so when speaking to the BLCC/Grange, Kaitlin will ask if they know.
- 3) Kaitlin inquired about Council funding for events. Is there any or are we totally self-funded? Susan will inquire with a Town Council contact.
- 4) Once we have some inventory of events already planned around town as noted previously, we will work as a Council to devise interesting and fun events or activities that would complement what's already going on around town. We won't want to spread ourselves too thin. Some ideas briefly mentioned included Music on the Lake, Ice Sculpture Display/Competition, Arts/Music Show with Food trucks, Farmers Market with music and art, Senior or children-based events. The Council members displayed much enthusiasm for the potential of this Council.

*Future meeting dates, locations, times:*

- 5) There was a new member potentially interested in joining who requested a later meeting time (Ben Wolfson). Not knowing if they will join and being unable to engage with absent members, we only set up the next meeting on Thursday, February 15 at 4:30 at the Hill Library. We prefer all to attend in person but knowing Daniel is currently in Florida and may still be, we can Zoom him in but only for 45 minutes (Susan only has a free account 😊)

**3:15** *Adjourn*

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 15 4:30-5:30 at the Hill Library.** Future monthly dates to be determined.