



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

Mission: *Enrich community connections by expanding local arts and culture through community events, activities, and programs for residents of all ages.*

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

MEETING DATE: March 21, 2024, 3:00-4:00pm (Meeting Three)

MEETING PLACE: Hill Library

COMMITTEE:

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

Committee Members in attendance: Susan Ryan, Daniel Dupee (Bowlakerentals@yahoo.com),

Absent/Excused: Kaitlin Witcher LaBreck (Kaitlin@ProfoundRealEstate.com), Risa Winter Ceskavich (Rceskavich@Gmail.com), Pamela Boyer (Boyerpamela633@gmail.com)

Event or Ideas Volunteers not in attendance but copied for agenda and minutes: Cristyn Black (CristynBlack@gmail.com), Kelly Kilgallon (Kelly@Taphousemedia.com), Cindy Lavigne (thevine57@yahoo.com) **Copy to Town Clerk:** Terri Marsh (townclerk@strafford.nh.gov)

MINUTES

Called the Meeting to order at 3:02. Since we didn't have a quorum, we didn't take any votes or make decisions but did have enough information to conduct the meeting as follows. Deferred the Vote to approve meeting minutes from 2/15/24 meeting, and as is custom, the minutes from this meeting to our April meeting. New Council Member Pamela Boyer will be joining us in the April meeting.

Committee member report out on contact updates based on assignments distributed in the 1/25 and 2/15 meetings were as follows:

- Risa contacts: Garden Club, Historical Society, Schools in town as well as Coe Brown were all deferred to April.
- Kaitlin contacts: Jessica Almanzon provided Kaitlin with the following School Update and Kaitlin had forwarded it to Susan for this meeting. Susan will update the calendar we are keeping with the events noted below for April agenda. Strafford School events:

School Run:

- Veteran's Day Assembly (November)
- Middle School Dances (Various months)
- Spring Music Concert (April)
- Drama Performance (March)
- Open House (September)
- Arts Week (April, type of art showcased is changed up each year. One year we had artist in residence that she recycled art, last year was performance art so different groups in all week, this year is a sculpture theme)
- Sporting events- games, clinics

- Graduation (June for 8th grade and Little Spartans Preschool)
- Field Day (June)
- Fire Safety Presentation(October)
- Other various assemblies (change annually, such as bullying, science themed, TIGER show, etc)

PTO:

- Holiday Craft Fair (December)
- Trunk or Treat (October)
- K-5 Family Dance (May/June)
- Holiday Shop for Kids (December)
- Popsicles on the Playground for incoming kindergarteners (August)

Strafford Rec:

- Father Daughter Dance (May)
- Mother/Son Fun Night (date varies)
- Sports Clinics
- Adult sporting options
- Cupcake Challenge

Kaitlin Deferred reporting on BNI for what other towns do

- Susan contacts: Women's Club (Lucinda Kerivan) provided their updates and Susan already incorporated them into the calendar we are keeping. Linda Hartman referred Susan to Bob Bennett for the Garden Club and he will provide updates in a week or so for Susan to update the calendar we are keeping. Susan went with Sue Higgins for a tour of AV equipment at Grange/Community Center and they have a spotlight, front of stage and on-stage lights with color gels, a large sound system board, 4 wireless mics, 2 large stand speakers and a large and 2 small mirror balls. The Grange/Community Center can be rented for \$75 per hour or \$50 for non-profit.
- Daniel contacts: Lebanon Arts and Culture Commission, AKA Leb ArtsWay, started in 2018 to cultivate artists and a culture of arts in town. Ben VanVliet is the music director and the Commission member that Daniel is in contact with. They've held a series of contests such as a Poetry contest whose winners had their poetry etched into sidewalks, Tunnel Murals display, and Leb ArtsWay logo contest. They also developed a policy for displaying local artwork in public places and this could be something we copy and explore using. Daniel also suggested we consider locating and offering someone who might help teach a session to local artists on how to use social media to sell their works.

Susan provided a Planning Board Meeting 2/20/24 Update. This Meeting is for Master Plan Implementation Sub Committee Chairs to provide updates and make inquiries and will occur quarterly. Our Planning Board update submission, including Council Mission, was previously distributed to this Council and the Planning Board was pleased with our Mission statement and organization and content of materials like agendas and minutes. We questioned Town Funding paths and they stated everything would have to come before planning and likely a town vote within the town budget. We have provided our agendas and minutes for posting on the Town Website for public access to updates for this Councils work via Terry Marsh (Town Clerk) and will continue to do. Terry has/will post the meetings on the town website and within Town Hall and Susan has/will post meetings on the Town FaceBook page. It was suggested that the Council submit a Community Calendar Submission for the April edition and Susan submitted the text below.

April Community Calendar Submission: We are pleased to announce the formation of the new Strafford Arts & Events Council, a sub-committee of the Planning Committee acting as a Master Plan Implementation committee. The Mission of the Council is to "Enrich community connections by expanding local arts and culture through community events, activities and programs for residents of all ages." We've just begun meeting after posting requests for members on the Town of Strafford NH Community page on Facebook. If you are interested in joining the Council please send an email to the chair at SuzRyan1@yahoo.com. The Arts & Events Council is scheduled to meet the 3rd Thursday of each month from 3-4:00 at the Hill Library and these meetings are open to the public. If you run a group in town that offers public events and have not yet been contacted by a Council member, please feel free to send an email to us so we can take your events into consideration in our future planning.



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We discussed Event Insurance questions to submit to Selectman Lynn Sweet or Ellen White at Town Hall. Susan will email Ellen asking about how it works for events this Council would hold either on public or private land and how we would go about requesting the use of public lands like the Dam and surrounding areas.

We intended to Initiate Events and Ideas Review for 2024 to devise interesting and fun events or activities that would complement what's already going on. (Compare to Town event calendar and don't spread ourselves too thin. See lists attached.) As we had so few Council members present, we discussed a few broader ideas to complement the work done to date and deferred further decision making to our next meeting when we expect to have quorum. Daniel will draft a paragraph for us to use on FB and submit to the Community Calendar to lure out musicians, artists, poets/spoken word, and storytellers to see who in our community might participate in future events we might consider. His draft will be circulated to this Council and then published/submitted. We talked about adding a Coffehouse (maybe themed) at the Waldron Store upstairs. We talked about mimicking some of the contests Leb ArtsWay have done. Daniel suggested and Susan offered to also break down the current ideas lists into a seasonal approach to see if that helps us in net months discussions.

No New Business was advanced and at 3:50 we adjourned.

FOR REFERENCE:

EVENT and ACTIVITIES: IDEAS FOR CONSIDERATION

- a) Air National Guard Helicopter Display Day (Rochester did this) Touch a truck too?
- b) Bingo and Beers night
- c) Cardboard Boat Races
- d) Children based events
- e) Christmas Tree Decorating Contest (donate after to less fortunate?)
- f) Coffehouse for music, poetry/spoken word, storytelling etc. (possibly themed)
- g) Community Cookbook
- h) Concerts
- i) Contests: Poetry contest whose winners have their poetry displayed/published, Public Murals display, Arts&Events Council logo contest, Public Arts displays in town buildings.
- j) Cooking Classes- vary culture and types of courses
- k) Cultural Food Day
- l) Dating Game Show- Dinner Date nights
- m) Family Fun Days
- n) Family Treasure Hunts
- o) Farmers Market with music and art displays/sales

- p) Flea Market
- q) Holiday Lights Competition
- r) Ice Hockey Tournament
- s) Ice Sculpture Display/Competition
- t) Karaoke Idol Contest
- u) Local Arts, Crafts, Hobby & Music Show with Food trucks
- v) Meet your neighbor's dinner-Dinner for 4 (couples teamed up with other they don't know)
- w) Music on the Lake
- x) Pet Parade and Beauty Contest
- y) Pie Baking, Pizza or other food contests
- z) Road Clean-up day
- aa) Senior based events
- bb) Social Media training for Artist sales
- cc) Sports competition based events- i.e. three-legged races, most basketball shots, etc.
- dd) Skateboarding shows
- ee) Strafford Book of Town Records gathering- i.e. Tallest person, longest beard, oldest truck
- ff) Vendor Fair
- gg) Who's Got Talent Show

Calendar as of March 7, 2024 will be updated for April meeting

DATE 2024	EVENT	OFFERED BY
March 23	Easter Bunny	BLCC/Grange
May 27	Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony	Town, BLCC, SWC
June 1	Bow Lake Road Race	?Sponsor
June 29	Pancake Breakfast	Fire Dept
June 29	Steak Tip Drive Thru	Bow Lake Baptist Church
July 3	Food Truck Fest, Fireworks	Town and BLCC
July 4	Day at the Dam	BLCOA
July 13	Chicken BBQ	BLCOA
July TBD	Ice Cream Social, Summer Raffle	SWC @ Waldron Store
August 10	Lobster Cookout	BLCOA
August TBD	Bake Sale	SWC
August 31	COGO Golf Tournament	BLCOA at Nippo Lake CC
September 1	Ducks over the Dam	BLCC/Grange
September 1	Loon Aid Benefit Concert on the Lake	Island Mike and Friends (Isla Saunders Benefit)
September 27	Firemen's Golf Tournament	Fire Dept
Fall TBD	Ice Cream Social	SWC
October 12	Chili Chowder Cook off	BLCC/Grange
October 30	Haunted House Trick or Treat	BLCC/Grange
December 1	Tree Lighting with Santa	BLCC/Grange
December 7-8	Christmas in Strafford, BakeSale	BLCC/Grange, SWC
January- December	Private Events and public fundraisers	BLCC/Grange