



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: August 15, 2024, 3:00-4:00pm

MEETING PLACE: Hill Library

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

Committee Members Cindy Lavigne (thevine57@yahoo.com), Pamela Boyer (Boyerpamela633@gmail.com), Daniel Dupee (Bowlakerentals@yahoo.com), Kaitlin Whitcher LaBreck (Kaitlin@ProfoundRealEstate.com),

Copy to Town Clerk: Terri Marsh (townclerk@strafford.nh.gov)

MINUTES

Called Meeting to Order at 3:00. Approved minutes from 7/18 via a motion from Daniel and seconded by Pam. Two visitors arrived separately at approximately 3:10/3:15 (Tara Bailey and Tahja Fulwider) and brief introductions were made.

The council briefly debriefed on BowLakeAPoluzza (rescheduled to Saturday July 27 2024), noting an overwhelmingly positive response from Community members, Performers and the Council. Discussion about changes we'd make for next year included potentially not including acoustic duos since their sound doesn't travel well enough over water, starting later (perhaps 12:30 Or 1:00), have brief intermission between site changes to allow for attendees to travel and sell merchandise with BowLakeAPoluzza and Council logo to raise money (tee shirts, inflatables etc). Some discussion was had about limiting performances to the Skiers Cove venue only, but that was abandoned as we want to allow non-water access to music, if possible, via the town beach and dam as was the case this year. More to consider on that as we plan next years event and know how many spots are needed based on the number of performers. We want to pay performers, even a nominal fee, but await information from the Town Planning Committee on how to bank and disperse funds. We will devote more time and meetings to this planning in the 4th quarter of this year 2024. Cindy brought back the outdoor poster sandwich boards and Kaitlin volunteered to store them for reuse next year. We again thanked Kailin for her generosity in paying for these boards.

The Council swiftly talked through follow-up items from last meeting including Kaitlin and Susan having a conversation with the Police Chief about a Water St road closure/one lane option to host a block party on July 3 or another date but learned that would not be an option. Susan and Daniel had obtained Neighbors feedback on impact and the idea for early evening "block party" and while it was favorable, it's not reasonable to try along water street due to parking and other logistics. We can discuss more on this topic and other site options at a later meeting if we choose to pursue such an idea.

Visitors Tara Bailey and Tahja Fulwider arrived at the meeting with an update about the BLCC (Grange Hall) Spring Art Show planning and they noted they have some positive interest from local arts and crafters in doing an event on May 3, 2025. They inquired about if we had artists they could contact but this Council is so new we don't have such an inventory at this point. Cindy

suggested they might contact Shop 225 as they may have suggestions. We noted to the visitors, as this Council is still very formative in its tenure, we are focused on designing events that would help build our brand and identity as well as developing a potential list of repeatable annual events, so are not necessarily interested in collaborating with other organizations who are already well established at this time as had been requested. Some brief discussion was had however about collaborating with other organizations on a postcard to Strafford Citizens about events and we may discuss this further at a future meeting. Initial feedback was about size of cards and that there are a lot of ways to promote events so it may not be needed.

An offer was made to flow funds through BLCC if collected by the Council, but the Council must await Planning Committee information on how the town will bank and disperse the Council funds and the Council hopes that will be cleared up very soon so we can begin collecting donations and possible grants on its own soon. Susan has been following up with Planning members but presumably due to summer schedules, has yet to hear from them with an answer. The Council is still working through the many ideas we had brainstormed to support our mission and while an Arts Show, potentially with Wine and Cheese or Food and speakers, is one we discussed before, we may forgo that now that the BLCC intends to pursue a somewhat similar event and we don't want to dilute their attendance or duplicate efforts. More about that and other events for next year will be discussed at a future Council meeting.

Daniel reported out on a successful Artist training August 7, 2024. Nicely attended and very well presented and attendees seemed to get a lot out of the training. We'll discuss more about other types of seminars at a future meeting.

Susan reported out that we have submitted a Community Calendar article regarding the 50th Regatta Event for the Bow Lake Yacht Club based on her interview with Ned Hines. It will be in the September edition.

Kaitlin showed the Council Logo Updates to the Arts Council and we voted to adopt a logo (4 approved, one not) but did not proceed with a motion as it was requested she produce one more slightly revised version to consider before we move to adopt and submit to the Planning Committee for approval. We will see those at the next meeting and finalize the vote.

New Business item was requested by visitor Tahja Fulwider regarding the BLCC's need for an adult volunteer for the 10/26 Halloween event as well as someone(s) to help paint or make games for the Pumpkin Carnival. Cindy suggested she may have some ideas and would make them to Tahja outside the meeting.

Due to unexpected new business and time constraints, we deferred the discussion about if the 9/19 meeting would be at Whitcher Fields so will talk about that next time.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:15. Next Meeting is 3:00 on Thursday September 19.