

# S T R A F F O R D

## Arts Events COUNCIL

### *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:** November 21, 2024, 3:00-4:00pm

**MEETING PLACE:** Hill Library

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

Cindy Lavigne ([thevine57@yahoo.com](mailto:thevine57@yahoo.com)), Pamela Boyer ([Boyerpamela633@gmail.com](mailto:Boyerpamela633@gmail.com)), Daniel Dupee ([Bowlakerentals@yahoo.com](mailto:Bowlakerentals@yahoo.com)), Kaitlin Whitcher LaBreck ([Kaitlin@ProfoundRealEstate.com](mailto:Kaitlin@ProfoundRealEstate.com)),

**Copy to Town Clerk:** Terri Marsh ([townclerk@strafford.nh.gov](mailto:townclerk@strafford.nh.gov))

### Minutes

- Called the Meeting to Order at 3:04. Approved minutes from 10/17 with Cindy making the motion to approve and Kaitlin seconding.
- Updates were provided from Council members on follow up work assigned in 10/17 meeting:
  - Daniel talked with a financial expert on establishing a 501C3 who confirmed it can be a lot of work and some hassles. Also takes money to set up.
  - Pam talked with her contact at the Garden Club who noted Mark Thompson helped them establishing and operating as a 501C3.
  - Kaitlin gained some legal insights into insurance liability for events held on private land (refer to RSA 508:14,1 (NH Statute) and the agent noted we'd need to be a 501c3 or private land owner to get coverage and he would need more info on the specific events to give any quotes.
  - Susan provided insight on Fiscal Agent alignment, workflows, fees (5-20%) etc. noting we'd need to be associated with a like missioned organization and have agreement on a project by project basis so its not without its difficulties. Susan emailed a Historical Society contact (Phil Shiere) regarding their 501C3 fiscal agent opportunity but has yet to hear back from them. Cindy or Pam will contact Christmas in Strafford about this too.
  - Susan handed out a 4-page summary of the steps to take to become a 501c3 in NH and the committee members should each read this document before our next meeting.
  - Susan noted the Town of Barrington gazebo events are operated by the town and not a separate entity.
  - Overall the Committee noted frustration about having to navigate this formative issue as we had presumed we'd be working under the Town of Strafford Planning Committee and not have to form our own entity and this work and research was taking away from our event planning. Susan will reach out to Phil Auger on the Planning Committee to see if we can obtain further support as well as coordinate with the other committee chairs on this topic as well as the topic of liability insurance. Susan will also reach out to Owen at Strafford Regional Planning to see if he can suggest anything helpful in these regards.

- Pam will research what a Warrant article process would look like for funding, though the committee is unsure this is a viable avenue for us its certainly worth understanding.
  - Cindy had sent out sample itinerary(s) associated with other Olde Home Days events produced in other towns and she will compile a potential itinerary that we might consider for Strafford for review at our next meeting.
  - Held a Brief group Discussion about how to approach an Olde Home Days and how to undertake this in collaboration (hopefully) with other town groups like the Historic Society, Christmas in Strafford (for artist coordination), Garden Club, Womens Club, Farmers Group, Library, Fire/Police, Schools, Musicians and Local Artists, (who else). All except Daniel had visited Witcher Fields to scout that location and generate ideas and the location is superb for such an event. We'd need to consider how to craft the days agenda and then engage with the other groups once we know more about how this Committee will be underwritten (501c3 vs Fiscal agent etc.)
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- No New Business and Meeting Adjourned at 4:05. Next Meeting is 3:00 on Thursday December 19.