

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 SUBCOMMITTEE of the TOWN OF STRAFFORD PLANNING BOARD

MEETING DATE: August 21, 2025 3:00-4:00pm

MEETING PLACE: Hill Library

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

Cindy Lavigne (thevine57@yahoo.com), Kaitlin Whitcher LaBreck (Kaitlin@ProfoundRealEstate.com), Betsy Schaefer (BetsyMac59@gmail.com)

EXCUSED: Daniel Dupee (Bowlakerentals@yahoo.com),

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

MINUTES

Called Meeting to Order at 3:00 and Approved minutes from 7/17/25 with Cindy moving to accept and Betsy seconding.

Debriefed on BowLakeAPaluzza noting all positive feedback and great attendance. We'll do it again in 2026! Changes for next year include likely not inviting duos since the sound doesn't really carry across the water.

In discussion for Olde Home Day Planning for August 22, 2026 (Rain date 8/23/26):

1. We plan to move the September meeting to early October and extend the meeting- now scheduled for 10/2 from 1:00-3:00 at Susans home. We will also keep the October 16 meeting. On 10/2 we will complete a project plan for the event, but Cindy and Kaitlin will work on a template in advance of that meeting.
2. A few crafters have contacted Susan but we need to develop more interest in the event. Perhaps we can do a mailer specifically to all who participate in Christmas in Strafford based on the addresses on the CIS map.
3. Kaitlin will reach out to CoeBrown about kids who could volunteer for the event and get community service hours for their work.
4. Susan will continue to pursue Strafford Historical Society to gain insight into their interest in partnering for the event and perhaps being fiscal oversight for it.
5. The whole committee will conduct research on other Olde Home Days happening around us. The NHPreservation.org website has numerous resources we must all read and determine what we might use.
6. Do we build a website ourselves?
7. In addition, Susan will make contact with Barnsteads OHD coordinator, Betsy will reach out to Epsom, and Cindy will reach out to Alton.
8. Review "invite letter" to determine next steps regarding additional parties to connect with via mailing, face to face, FB and social media, posters and who might reach out to who in follow-up to recruit "vendors" and others needed. Susan did post an article in the September Community Calendar to stir up interest again.

9. Some other project planning needs include getting quotes for tents, special details (police, fire, EMT. etc) and other anticipated costs. For income, we might consider getting a small cut of vendor income to pay for expenses, Review idea of guest donations, firm up sponsorship ideas- \$ levels and perks etc.- needed to pay for expenses
10. In the October meeting we will Plan a Planning Meeting at Kitz Farm- Date, Time for extended meeting with potential participants for OHD planning session.

New Business:

- Cindy suggested an idea for doing Monthly or Bi-Monthly Artist Showcases was suggested for winter dates. We could submit articles to the Community Calendar and offer “lectures” or interactive sessions at The Independence Inn showcasing Strafford artists like Fiona Meyers (artist) and Anne Young (author) and the Simic family. Many others could also be highlighted since we have a wonderfully talented community!
- Betsy suggested For future Olde Home Day(s) perhaps we can add a race day to include foot races, paddleboat and kayak race and Susan added the cardboard bot race idea too.

Next Meeting is 1-3:00 on Thursday October 2, 2025 at Susans House-not open to the public .