

Strafford Master Plan Subcommittees Meeting
October 14, 2025, 6:30pm, Town Hall

Meeting Notes

I. Welcome and introductions

Attendees: Susan Arnold, Phil Auger, Charlie Moreno (Planning Board)

Sue Higgins, Bow Lake Subcommittee

Betsy Schaeffer, Arts & Events Council

Larrissa Malloy, Library Subcommittee

Clair Murdaugh, Community Center/Strafford Rec

Hammon Brown, Green Subcommittee

II. Activity updates from subcommittee representatives

Bow Lake Subcommittee (Sue Higgins)

- In receipt of two grants to begin watershed mapping process, total of \$50k (\$25k from Town)
- Have expanded zone for septic inventory around the lake; survey will be out at the end of the month
- Will use long-term UNH water quality data to track degradation of water quality over time
- Subcommittee wants to be involved in planning for 2027 road work on Water Street

Arts & Events Council (Betsy Shaeffer for Susan Ryan)

- Monthly meetings continuing (3rd Thursday at 3pm)
- 2nd Bow Lake-A-Palooza success with 4 acts on two waterfront properties; #3 is in the works!
- Town calendar to publish interviews with local artists

- Partnering with Strafford Rec Sports for 501c3 fiscal sponsor
- 8/22/26 Olde Home Day at Kitz Farm; looking for vendors, volunteers, groups to participate. Lukewarm reception thus far.

Library Subcommittee (Larissa Malloy)

- Monthly meetings of 8-10 participants
- Honing in on strategic plan with land as the big question (move? Expand? Existing lot is 0.89 acres total)
- Friends of Library as fiscal agent
- Plan for expansion was created 13 years ago but not acted on

Community Center/Strafford Rec (Clair Murdaugh)

- Meeting monthly
- Holding pattern on land availability
- Pursuing fiscal agency for Arts Council (consulting with accountant)
- Meeting with Selectmen and Library on land situation; unclear outcome/decision on acreage amount and price

Green Subcommittee (Hammond Brown)

- Not much to report; meetings have been irregular and small cohort
- Somewhat discouraged about initiatives' reception by town bodies: school not interested in solar; Community Power rates are too high and there is no infrastructure to implement it; no location for EV charging station
- Looking at successes in neighboring towns (Barrington, Hampton, Milton, Stratham)
- Kearsarge program in which net metering proceeds go to Town (?)

Natural Resources Subcommittee (Phil Auger for Philip Lovejoy)

- Given up on working with agricultural community for now
- No funding available for Natural Resource inventory
- Olde Home Day collaboration opportunity?

III. Questions, information sharing, challenges/opportunities

1. Should Bow Lake subcommittee present at Town Meeting as \$25k is from town taxpayers?
2. Concern about land issues for the Library and community center—should the Selectmen be negotiating for everyone?

IV. Other concerns/requests/next steps?

1. Olde Home Day—reduce expectations for this first year? Reach out to community orgs (Garden Club, Women's Club, Historical Society, BLCOA, BLCC, Coe Brown students)

V. Wrap up/next meeting: February 10th, 6:30 pm Town Hall

(2/17 snowdate)