

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

**MEETING DATE:** 11/20/25 3:00-4:00

**MEETING PLACE:** Hill Library

**COMITTEE:** Cindy Lavigne, Betsy Schaefer

Absent: Susan Ryan, Kaitlin Whitcher LaBreck, Daniel Dupee

**Special Guests:** (The Strafford Historical Society): JoAnn Brown, Ken Berry, Liz Evans, and Cyndi Twombly

### **MINUTES**

Meeting was called to order at 3:05pm. A special welcome was given to the 4 members of The Strafford Historical Society (SHS), JoAnn Brown, Ken Berry, Liz Evans, and Cyndi Twombly, who came to share their input and ideas for the Old Home Day we are planning for next August 22, 2026.

Cindy brought everyone up to speed on how the Old Home Day idea came into being, and to be held at the Kitz Farm. Copies of the photo layout plan at the site were handed out to the guests. As Cindy began to go over the site plan, showing where vendors might be placed/barn activities, etc., a concern came up about the parking space along the Town Forest area. JoAnn said there is a limit of 12 parking spaces per the conservation plan. We need to check with Conservation on that point. JoAnn was concerned the event would be “way out of proportion” by not keeping in line with the historical part. Austin Hall and the Waldron Store should be part of Old Home Day. She didn’t want so many vendors but rather have more demonstration type activities. Cindy pointed out the vendors would be local artisans and crafters from Strafford. JoAnn said maybe set up Waldron Store like it was in the day...an old-fashioned place where you could buy penny candy, etc. Austin Hall used to house a library and the town administrator’s offices, among other things. Some discussion took place about the Strafford Bicentennial Day

that SHS was working on prior to COVID. They were talking about antique cars, animal exhibits, a dunking booth, yarn/wool spinning and quilting demonstrations. JoAnn showed some pictures of the Strafford Town Flag made by Daniel Dupee's father. While brainstorming ideas, Ken had some interesting suggestions: a cannon shot demonstration, town historical figures storytelling with a script, or skits showcasing the big debate when Barrington split apart and Strafford came into being. Other ideas were brought up about music, Barber Shop Quartet or Sweet Adelines, storytelling at the barn, pie eating contest, more physical activities like they did in olden days like a horse race (there was a racetrack somewhere near Kouakee?), 5k race, a Strafford History Tour. They liked the Frying Pan Toss competition idea (stolen by Betsy from the Deerfield Fair.... women ONLY). A recommendation was made to discuss what the event should be called, depending on the focus. For the SHS, the name Old Home Day suggests more of an historical focus, not vendors selling their crafts. Cindy invited them to our next meeting, but they would rather come again after the first of the year as there is a lot going on between now and the end of the year.

Meeting was called to an end at 4:19