

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: 12/5/2025 (replaces 11/20/25 and 12/18/2025 meetings) 1:00-2:00

MEETING PLACE: Betsy Schaefer's home (50 Kendal Lane Beaver Dam Estates)

COMMITTEE Attendees: **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) Daniel Dupee (Bowlakerentals@yahoo.com) by phone))

Copy to Town Clerk: Terri Marsh (townclerk@strafford.nh.gov) **Special invite to** Ken Berry - Historical Society

Minutes

Called Meeting to Order at 1:05. Approved minutes from 10/16/25 meeting with Cindy moving to accept and Kaitlin seconding the motion. Updated the Council about Daniels membership being a bit more fluid to account for his winter travel plans and other considerations-he'll remain involved as he can accommodate and we appreciate his continued support. Guest Ken Berry was in attendance for this meeting.

OLDE HOME DAY PLANNING: An Update on the 11/20 meeting held by Cindy and Betsy with some members of The Historical Society(HS) was provided and considered as to how it may impact the Council's Olde Home Day(OHD) Planning for 2026. The HS had planned an extensive event in 2020 which was canceled due to Covid. Partnering with the HS seems a wise opportunity to enrich any event this Council could produce. Also response has been tepid regarding interest in community members attending, participating in or volunteering for the OHD in 2026. The Council spoke at length about the pros and cons of deferring the event from 2026 to 2027 so that we might garner a deeper understanding of how to be most successful in holding such an event, more likely moving to a fall timeframe as well and not during summer months. Of note, Parking at the Town Forest is also limited to 10 cars. A vote was taken and unanimously approved to discontinue planning for 2026 and seek to determine if an event in 2027 can be coordinated along with the HS and possibly the Strafford Recreation Sports and Natural Resources and Land Use Committee among other possible collaborators helping out.

Cindy will contact Kitz Farm to advise them of the change in plans and Susan will contact Claire Murdough Strafford Recreation Sports and Phil Lovejoy Strafford Natural Resources and Land Use Committee about this decision as well. Susan and Cindy will draft an email to the HS membership to garner interest in a meeting on this topic too.

OTHER BUSINESS: Kaitlin secured a PO BOX 104 for this Council's use for \$99 a year and donated the first year's fee to the Council. Betsy volunteered to check the box occasionally and Susan has a key too.

Besty reminded the Council that The Jefferson has offered to host any meetings or appropriately sized events for free at their location in the Independence Inn.

Next Meeting is 3:00 on Thursday January 15, 2026 at the Hill Library