

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: January 15, 2026 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), **Betsy** Schaefer (BetsyMac59@gmail.com), Daniel Dupee (Bowlakerentals@yahoo.com) joined by phone along with Susan)

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

Minutes

Called Meeting to Order at 3:00. Approved minutes from 12/5/25 with Cindy motioning and Besty seconding.

Susan acknowledged that Kaitlin had to resign from the council due to competing family and work priorities. We discussed her invaluable contributions and wonderful commitment during her tenure. She will be sorely missed. We'll want to backfill and continue to build the council by another member or two. We will ask Ken Berry if he may be interested in joining the Council. Council members will think about other well connected community members who may be a good fit.

We were joined by two guests from the Strafford Historical Society (SHS)- Ken Berry and Jo Layrd (?spelling). We discussed Olde Home Day Planning for Fall 2027. Overwhelming consent was that this may be too large an endeavor for this council alone at this time, we were very uncertain about community interest in such an event and that we should cancel the 2027 date being held for us by the Kitz Farm. We discussed if the SHS would be interested in partnering on such an event in the future or having us support an event they were planning that coincided with our mission but the conversation yielded no specific next steps. We discussed the concept of them/SHS being our fiscal agent and they were not. The guests departed the meeting at about 3:40.

We began planning BowLakeAPolooza for Saturday July 25, 2026. The Cove and Miner&Ryan Musicians are committed to play and we will seek two others to play. Susan will ask Island Mike and Daniel will ask a college group. Duos and original music don't seem to be a good fit and artists should focus their set list on upbeat, recognizable music.

Next Meeting is 3:00 on Thursday February 19, 2026.