

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:** Town Planning Committee: Progress Reports by Master Plan Implementation Sub Committees

**MEETING DATE:** February 17, 2026 6:30pm

**MEETING PLACE:** Town Hall

**COMMITTEE:** ARTS & EVENTS COUNCIL- A SUBCOMITTEE of the TOWN OF STRAFFORD PLANNING BOARD

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

**Committee Members** Cindy Lavigne ([Thevine57@yahoo.com](mailto:Thevine57@yahoo.com)), Betsy Schaefer ([BetsyMac59@gmail.com](mailto:BetsyMac59@gmail.com)),

Former members/active volunteers: Kaitlin Whitcher LaBreck ([Kaitlin@ProfoundRealEstate.com](mailto:Kaitlin@ProfoundRealEstate.com)), Daniel

Dupee ([Bowlakerentals@yahoo.com](mailto:Bowlakerentals@yahoo.com))

### UPDATE #7

- A. **Meetings** are still held monthly since 2/1/24 at the Hill Library on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 3:00pm unless otherwise updated. Full attendance by all Council members has allowed us to be very productive however recent turnover in two members requires recruitment efforts in order to continue being effective and successful and has slowed progress in some endeavors.
- B. On Saturday July 25 we will hold the third annual “**BowLawAPalooza**” as a day of free music on the lake accessible by water craft and the town beach for some of the program. We plan four volunteer acts to play beginning at 12:30, each act playing for 1 hour, hosted at two waterfront properties on the Strafford side of the Lake along Water Street. Once again, musicians volunteered to do the event for free-something we endeavored to **not** have to do again each year but are yet to reach that goal.
- C. We have published two interviews in the Community Calendar to **showcase Strafford based artists** and their stories. Others are planned.
- D. We continue to need to raise funds to underwrite future activities or events, purchase business cards/posters etc. raffle items etc.. We talked with both The Strafford Recreational Sports 501c3 and the Strafford Historical Society about partnering with them as a **fiscal agent and for insurance** purposes but have not been able to move forward with either organization. Our main goal is to gain a partner with a *similar mission* as we consider that a key attribute to our being able to continue our work.
- E. As reported previously, The Council was actively focused on organizing a **Strafford Olde Home Day** on August 22, 2026 with a rain date of August 23, 2026 at Kitz Farm. Much effort has gone into planning how the day might look and the Council actively reached out to many others to explain the premise and gain interest in their participation. Many Volunteers, town groups and vendors would be needed to make the event a success but response was lukewarm at best, with a few very interested parties, but no commitments being made. After significant consideration the council determined we needed more time to strategize how to or if we can garner more interest in order to be confident about moving ahead with this event. Thus we canceled the 2026 plans and are looking toward 2027 as a Fall event, perhaps not Olde Home Day but a Fall Festival. More to come.