

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: February 19, 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), Ken Berry (Kenberry267@gmail.com), Daniel Dupee (Bowlakerentals@yahoo.com) emeritus joins by phone). **Copy to Town Clerk:** Terri Marsh (townclerk@strafford.nh.gov)

Minutes

Called Meeting to Order at 3:00. Approved minutes from 1/15/26 with Cindy moving to do so and new Council member Ken Berry seconding. Betsy joined the meeting about 15 minutes late (planned) and Daniel was not present by phone. Susan updated the Council on the Town Planning Subcommittee meeting held Tuesday evening 2/17 noting Betsy also attended and Susans update was presented and had been sent to this Council earlier this week.

Continued planning BowLakeAPoolooza Saturday July 25, 2026, updating Ken on how the event works, noting we have 3 Acts and one more is needed. Because we still cannot pay acts, it's a challenge to obtain them. Daniel is working one getting one more and Island Mike will join The Cove and Miner & Ryan Musicians. Based on the transition in Council members, we will not pursue getting Swag like drink koozies this year. Members suggested maybe we get a banner to erect somewhere in town. We could use the banner to walk in the memorial day parade too. Susan will contact AMI to see about cost, and talk to 7C's and Hotdog about erecting it on their property. Other places we might erect it will be discussed once we know if we are going to buy it.

Council members are needed and next steps include current members talking with people they know in town to see who might be interested in being considered. Susan will post on FB and send an article to the Community Calendar. We are seeking people with good ideas and who will assist in carrying out events, as well at those well connected in town to help spread the word about the Councils work. Susan will attend town meeting on 3/14 with the intent to hand out a simple flyer about us and our membership needs.

Still seeking Fiscal agent options and next steps in being able to obtain, bank and distribute funding. Barrington option is no longer being pursued as their new group did not materialize. Susan will find out how other town groups are doing it and if they all simply opted for 501c3 status.

New Business included the possibility of sponsoring a Winter Festival in 2027, perhaps in concert with Strafford Recreation, and maybe on a site in town with good parking for snowshoeing races, igloo building contests and other family fun. Ideas and brainstorming for this new event will be discussed at the next meeting.

Next Meeting is 3:00 on Thursday March 19, 2026 at the Library.