

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: March 26, 2026 11-12:00 (replaced March 19, 2026 3:00-4:00pm)

MEETING PLACE: Susan Ryans home

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), Elaine Leker (Elaineleker55@gmail.com), Daniel Dupee (Bowlakerentals@yahoo.com) emeritus joins by phone)

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

Minutes

Call Meeting to Order and approved minutes from 2/19/26 With Cindy moving to accept and Ken seconding.

Introduced new Council Member Elaine Leker and she provided insights into her background. Betsy joined the meeting a bit late (planned) at 11:25.

Continued planning BowLakeAPolooza for Saturday July 25, 2026 noting we have The Cover starting at 12:30, Island Mike and Friends at 1:30 both at the Dupee shoreline, then needed another act in addition to Miner & Ryna Musicians on Hotdogs beach. Ken suggested The Home Folks (bluegrass and country, gospel) and he will reach out to them to see if they are interested. Sound system will be provided if they like. Susan will also see if she knows another act who will donate their time. Discussion about banner and other marketing materials is deferred to our next meeting.

Discussion about Council membership recruiting and next steps ensued and decision was made to table it since 6 seems a good number but Council member will be on the look out for anyone interested.

Deferred discussion around Fiscal agent options and next steps,

New event Discussion such as a Fall or *Winter Festival in 2027* doing some brainstorming and ideas sharing like Full Moon Snowshoe hike, augmenting the fishing derby (winter- Susan will seek out info from organizers). Will discuss further ideas at next meeting. Betsy will seek out information about using the school property for events. Elaine suggested Kelly Dwyer is an outdoor, naturalist enthusiast and may be someone to include in events. Ken suggested we consider developing a waiver for artists or vendors for any events we produce. Betsy and Cindy suggested we inquire if Anne Youong would be interested in hosting an Authors Showcase at the Independence Inn in late May, perhaps Thursday May 21, and we could get the article we wrote about her into the Community Calendar since it seems to have been lost in a shuffle of editions. Cindy and Betsy will follow up on this. Ken plans to confirm the date the Historic Society (SHS) plans to produce a Historic Home and Strafford History day, potentially in late August and wondered if we might augment this event with artists at the Waldron Store or Austin Hall. Ken and Betsy will see if the SHS is interested in this idea during the 5/9/26 meeting of the SHS.

Next Meeting is 3:00 on Thursday April 16, 2026 at the Hill Library.