

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: Thursday May 14, 2026 3:00-4:00pm (**NOTE DATE CHANGE**)

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), Elaine Leker (Elaineleker55@gmail.com), Daniel Dupee (Bowlakerentals@yahoo.com), Excused: Ken Berry (KenBerry267@gmail.com), **Copy to Town Clerk:** Terri Marsh (townclerk@strafford.nh.gov)

Minutes

- Called Meeting to Order at 3:00. Approved minutes from 5/14/26 with Cindy moving to do so and Betsy seconding.
- Continue planning BowLakeAPolooza for Saturday July 25, 2026 noting we needed an update on the 1 additional Act needed Cindy offered to contact The Home Folks to alleviate that from Kens plate. Daniel noted his band is having availability issues but that he'd resolve them. Marketing Plans- Susan submitted the June article in the Strafford Comm Calendar and will do so again for July. Susan did some initial FB updates and will continue to do so and send posting along to Cindy and Betsy to put in their neighborhood pages. Cindy brought the sandwich board posters- Susan took one to put out at the bottom of Tasker Hill using Cindy boards, Cindy took one to put at the entrance of Kuaokee Island using her board, Betsy took two to post at the traffic island outside Independence Inn and at the entrance to Beaver Estates. Daniel will reach out to Kaitlin to see if we can use her 2 sandwich board for Betsys signs. We decided not to do small post posters around town, Susan needs to buy tape for electrical wire tape down on Water Street. Susan will also follow-up with Island Mike on the number of band members he is bringing to assure its not just a duo.
- Discussed Fiscal agent, insurance options and next steps: Elaine noted The Garden Club is a 501c3 but Womens club isn't- in a happenstance conversation with a Womens Club member she noted they keep funds under 10K. Elaine will talk to Lou Gagnon from Garden Club about fiscal agent and insurance items.
- Discussed *Winter or Fall Festival 2027* ideas and follow up to add-ons to the Fishing Derby. Cindy talked with Brad Jones from Fish and Game and he'd do some rescue demos. Elaine passed out a list of ideas she has for the Fall Festival for future consideration. Betsy reviewed the contract she obtained from the school should that be a location we choose for the Fall Festival. Betsy talked to Rick Gagne about his Ukulele group (SNUG) about playing at the festival- all council members thought it a great idea.
- Update on events possible at the Independence Inn- Betsy will continue conversation with Sara about indoor and outdoor options.
- Cindy offered ideas for a new event called Pints and Ponytails for dads to learn hair style with their children. She is following up with a group who did it locally to learn more. Maybe do it at the Inn or, Waldron store (upstairs) or Grange. Betsy will go to the next Historic Society meeting to talk about partnering with them on using the Waldron Store upstairs,
Next 2 Scheduled Meetings have date changes to Thursday 6/25 and 7/23 at 3:00 at the library.