

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: Tuesday October 13, 2026 3:30-4:30pm

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)

Excused: Daniel Dupee (Bowlakerentals@yahoo.com), Ken Berry (KenBerry267@gmail.com),

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

Minutes

Meeting called to Order at 3:35 and approved minutes from 9/25/26 with Cindy motioning and Betsy seconding.

Discussion regarding the future of and need for this Council began by noting:

- 1) Our continued struggle to determine how to augment activities or find our niche without stepping on the good work and events others are supplying. The bottom line is the town seems very well positioned to support a vibrant schedule of events open to all ages on a year round basis. Additionally:
 - This Council is a non-funded group (not a 501c3),
 - Council members have been the funding source for expenses to date (not sustainable),
 - This Council does not have liability insurance for events, yet proceeding nonetheless

The Council was unanimous in agreeing that after 3 years it was time to disband and agreed we were doing so in a positive manner in that the town is already meeting its Master Plan vision of having a robust culture of community events. Many successful events are produced by the numerous groups around town that are proudly considered strong, annual traditions. We agreed any of us could join other groups or even produce events in an ad hoc way. Both Daniel and Ken had previously weighed in supporting this decision.

The Council agreed we will bring this to the Town Planning Committee, Master Plan Subcommittee check in, on October 20 and attend with as many Council members as can attend.

We will finalize our plan and communication message about the future of this Council by Susan developing the draft report out for the Planning meeting and circulating that to the council for input prior to this meeting.

We canceled our Scheduled Meetings from this point forward.