Agenda Summary
September 9, 2026

Agenda Item No. B-3
Arts & Culture Update & Charge Amendment

Summary: The Arts & Culture Council has a vacant seat reserved for Stowe Performing Art, which is generally no longer in operation. Don Jones, SACC Chair, will be at your meeting to give an update on what they are working on and to present their proposal for a revised charge statement.

Town Plan & Policy Impact: N/A

Fiscal & HR impact: N/A

Recommendation: Discuss and advise.

Town of Stowe Selectboard

Stowe Arts & Culture Council Charge

Purpose: To establish and grow Stowe as an arts and culture destination to improve quality of life and encourage the creative economy to be a lead driver of economic development.

Objectives:

1. To advocate for and facilitate municipal engagement with arts and culture through policy advisement, vetting of arts-related requests and concerns as may be requested by the Selectboard, and facilitating discussion about the arts among local organizations and the community
    a. Serve as subject matter experts for the Selectboard and town government to support town decision making as it relates to arts and culture.
    b. Act as a clearing house for arts-related requests and concerns, providing referrals to relevant organizations or elevation to town government.
    c. Facilitate open communication amongst organizations and interested community members and provide opportunities to share arts-related events and opportunities.
    d. Provide quarterly updates to the Selectboard and represent the council in relevant Selectboard discussions.
2. To advise and participate in integration of arts and culture in town planning decisions, including the Selectboard, Planning Commission, and other municipal bodies.
    a. Provide input to the Town Plan including authoring relevant sections on arts & culture institutions and goals.
    b. Liaison with Selectboard, Commissions and Town Manager, providing input into relevant decision making, such as the incorporation of public art in the renovation or construction of public buildings, parks, and public spaces.

3. Actively support through arts and culture the Town's previously approved "declaration of inclusion" through education, promoting equal opportunities and fair access, a culture of respect, and broad representation from a variety of perspectives, backgrounds, and experiences.

Council: The Council is comprised of up to nine voting members appointed by the Selectboard, with a non-voting position designated for Stowe Schools (either student, staff or faculty). Seats shall be reserved for The Current, Spruce Peak Arts, Stowe Historical Society, and Stowe Area Association. An additional seat would be designated for an arts and culture organization that is based in and serves the Town of Stowe. The four remaining at-large seats shall be filled by Stowe residents or taxpayers with a demonstrated interest in advancing the arts and culture. If an organization with a reserved seat is unable to fill the seat for a period of 3 months or more, the Selectboard reserves the ability to re-designate the seat to another organization or as an at-large organizational seat for the remainder of the present term with the seat reverting back to the reserved organization unless they are still unable to fill it.~~The Council is comprised of up to ten members appointed by the Selectboard. The members do not have to be Stowe residents or taxpayers but should have demonstrated interest in advancing the arts and/or represent an arts or culture organization that serves the Town of Stowe.~~

~~Seats shall be reserved for The Current, Stowe Performing Arts, Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, and the Stowe Historical Society. A seat shall also be reserved for the Stowe Area Association and a student representative. In addition, there shall be four seats at large. The representatives from these~~

~~named organizations shall be recommended by their respective boards and subject to appointment by the Selectboard. In accordance with the Stowe Town Charter, the Town Manager is an ex- officio member of all standing committees and shall have the right to attend and participate in all meetings but may not vote.~~

Ethics Policy: All Council members shall be required to sign an acknowledgement form indicating that they have read and understand Stowe's Ethics Policy.

Meetings: All meetings are subject to the Vermont Open Meeting Law. As such, the meetings shall be warned, open to the public and press, and minutes shall be taken. Copies of all minutes shall be provided to the Manager's Executive Assistant for distribution to the Stowe Selectboard or others that may request them.

Staffing: The Town Manager or his/ her designee shall provide staff support.

Municipal Budget: The Town will earmark $2,000 out of its administrative contingency line item. Future appropriations shall be considered by the Selectboard during the annual budget development process and are subject to voter approval. This money may be used for, but is not limited to, promotion/marketing, legal ads, research and incidentals that may be necessary to assist the Stowe Arts & Culture Council in their mission. All expenditures shall be done through the municipal staff assigned to the Committee in accordance with Stowe's Purchasing Policy. Any stipend for SACC representative(s) must be separately approved by the Stowe Selectboard.

Grants: The Stowe Arts & Culture Council may apply for grants under the Town of Stowe, in accordance with Stowe's Purchasing Policy. The Selectboard must approve any grant that requires a financial match beyond what has been preapproved in the Stowe Arts & Culture Council budget or otherwise commits the Town of Stowe to a long-term obligation beyond one year. The Town Manager may approve any grant that is within the pre-approved budget appropriation, that doesn't require a match or obligate the Town of Stowe beyond one year.

Donations: The Town Treasurer may accept donations to be separately accounted for from other municipal funds. Any active solicitation of donations, earmarking of them for a specific purpose, or expenditure of donations shall be for lawful purposes with the approval of the Stowe Arts & Culture Council and the Selectboard. All expenditures shall be made in accordance with the Stowe Purchasing Policy and must be approved for payment by the Town Manager or his/her designee staffing the Stowe Arts & Culture Council. Any donations that remain if the Stowe Arts & Culture Council is disbanded will be spent subject to Selectboard approval on arts and cultural activities in the Town of Stowe.

Est. 4/5/21 // Rev. 7/14/23 // Rev. 2/28/24 // Rev. 3/27/24 // Rev. 4/24/24 // Rev 9/24/25 // Rev 9/9/26