**Town of Stowe: Arts and Culture Commission**

**Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 9 am.**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting was called to order at 9 am.

**Present**: Rachel Moore, Barbara Baraw, Aimee Green, Seth Soloway, Don Jones, Carrie Simmons, Loren Polk.

**Visitors**: Mort Butler, Tanya Johnson, George Petit

Introductions, Visitors and Public Comments. Barbara introduced herself as the newest member, and each member introduced themselves.

Approval of May meeting minutes. Minutes passed with one spelling correction.

**Strategic Research Committee Presentation:**

Don led the committee in presenting research findings based on interviews with 5 municipal organizations with arts and culture initiatives. Notable takeaways of communities with thriving arts and culture programs include:

* A need for dedicated funding. (Examples include “1% to the arts”)
* A need for dedicated staff.
* If we want to do this right, we need commitment and funding to engage in a structured strategic planning process that brings in outside expertise and engages the community.

The Council discussed a 1% sales tax and previous capital expenses covered by the Town. Rachel stated she would talk with Charles about various potential options for funding from the municipality.

Loren spoke about creating an endowments model to support SACC activity. Rachel added there is potential for grants to support SACC work.

The Council discussed a needs assessment survey and considered using the budget from SACC to support an outside survey for arts and culture.

**Old Business**

Aimee and Seth offered an update on the Stowe Arts Week advertising. Rachel suggested the budget for Arts Week go to a banner and print materials be limited. The Council discussed print design logistics.

**Meeting adjourned** at 10:07 am.

Next Meeting will be Wednesday, July 10.