**Town of Stowe** A**rts and Culture Commission**

**Wednesday, April 9, 2025. 9 am.**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Present: Don Jones, Loren Polk, Barbara Baraw, Brook Hailey, Carrie Simmons

Absent: Seth Soloway, Marty Fried, Beth Liberman, Aimee Green

**Call to Order**

Don called the meeting to order and gave a brief overview of the agenda.

February minutes were approved as written, and modified agenda was approved.

**No Visitors or Public Comment.**

**New Business**

1. LIAISON REPORTS

* Don reviewed minutes of the Selectboard and highlighted an extended closing of the Akeley theater as HVAC repairs are scheduled. Don is hopeful that the theater will be running again in summer 2026.
* Barb mentioned that State and National news is increasingly covering the 250th anniversary of the USA. Barb has launched a small group that might discuss celebration opportunities for the year, but will not be able to run the group. The museum will be closed for the next 6 weeks, and a soft and hard launch of the new exhibit will be available at the next meeting.
* Brooke mentioned the upcoming student art fair, and Sara is still hoping to meet with the principal.
* Loren mentioned the rec department will have an easter egg hunt and is seeking other organizations to help with the event. Loren also drew attention to the IMLS shut down, and highlighted ways this will affect Stowe Free Library, library systems throughout the state, and inquired about museum services impacts with Barb. Vermont Historical Society is experiencing similar threats of cuts to funding. Rachel also suggested the NEH has similar reductions which will result in decreased funding for Vermont Humanities. Barb suggested using Archive.org for historic website information.
* Carrie shared that travel and international tourism is likely going to affect Stowe and other travel destinations. Vermont Tourism summit is coming up in Burlington. State wide strategic planning task force is launching and Carrie will be helping with travel and tourism. Finally, Carrie will be launching a new website and summer schedule of activities in the near future.

2 TOWN PLAN

 Rachel gave an update on the Town plan and summarized a meeting with Sarah McShane. In particular, Sarah talked about the organizations receiving in-kind support through the Town, such as the Current, the Historical Society, and ski museum. Sarah would like us to consider the top 3-5 items we would like supported by the Town in the next 5 years.

 Don spoke about the special planning event on May 7th.

 Don led a 20-minute discussion on the council charge and the definition of arts and culture. The council started by reviewing the five objectives set forth in the SACC charter. In the discussion regarding supporting diversity and inclusion efforts, various members discussed the idea of integrating these principles into our objectives instead of holding these values in a distinct objective. Carrie and Rachel discussed revising the five objectives to become three objectives. Conversation was paused as the meeting time approached.

**Other discussion**

**The meeting adjourned at 10:01.**

Next Meeting will be Wednesday, May 7, 2025 on Zoom and at Spruce Peak Arts!