

## **Stowe Arts and Culture Council (SACC) Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** May 14<sup>th</sup>

**Present:** Donald Jones, Aimée Green, Barbara Baraw, Sara Opel, Beth Liberman, Loren Polk, Brooke Hailey, Seth Soloway

Sarah McShane (Guest – Town Planning and Zoning Director), Tim Cianciola

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Donald Jones opened the meeting and introduced Sarah McShane, Town Planning and Zoning Director, to discuss the Town Plan update and the role of the Arts and Culture chapter.

### **Car Show Transition Discussion**

- **Suggestions for New Organizers:**

- Aimée Green recommended reaching out to Elise McKenna of Stowe Vibrancy and Carol Shaw.
- Stoke Performing Arts was also mentioned as a possibility.
- Barbara Baraw suggested the Fire Department could be re-engaged, possibly partnering with another group.

- **Event Profitability:**

Tim Cianciola noted the car show has been very profitable in past years and is open to passing it on.

- **Next Steps:**

Tim will reach out to potential partners. SACC expressed support for continuing the event but clarified they cannot organize it themselves.

### **Town Plan Update – Arts & Culture Chapter**

**Presenter:** Sarah McShane

- The Town is updating its plan (last updated 8 years ago) through the “Stowe 2050” visioning project.
- Over 7,000 unique community comments were collected.
- The Arts & Culture section includes goals, policies, and tasks — SACC is being asked to review and suggest edits or additions.
- Deadline for feedback: **End of Summer (August).**

### **Discussion Highlights:**

- Donald Jones emphasized the need for Stowe to become a more visible arts destination, noting the lack of cohesive branding and signage.
- Ideas shared:
  - "Stowe Arts" door decals, coordinated banners, and branding.
  - Broader promotion through maps and wayfinding tools.
  - Revamping the town walking map to include arts locations/events.
  - A rotating public art program featuring local artists, including student work.
  - Development of partnerships with local businesses and organizations to host local art.
  - Potential for QR-code-enabled walking tours or an online interactive map.
- **Next Steps:**
  - SACC will continue reviewing the Arts and Culture section.
  - Sarah McShane will provide any existing survey data relevant to arts and culture.
  - Council to align this update with its own internal review of goals and objectives.

### **Council Vision and Role**

- Continued discussion on defining the role of the SACC:
  - Recognition of current limitations (no funding or curating authority).
  - Desire to serve as facilitator and advocate rather than event organizer.
  - Noted the need for clearer collaboration with town planning and select board.
- Beth Liberman suggested learning from River Arts' successful community-inclusive art projects.
- Seth Soloway reiterated the need for a centralized visual art curator or facilitator and offered Spruce Peak Arts' walls for exhibition use.

### **Sesquicentennial Planning**

- Recap from prior meeting:  
SACC will not lead any events but will ensure coordination with Stowe Vibrancy and other partners to incorporate arts and culture into town celebrations.

### **Liaison and Select Board Update**

- **Select Board Goal:**  
Review and clarify the role of all town commissions, including SACC.
  - This review adds urgency to SACC's own strategic planning and definition of value to the town.

### **Next Steps and Action Items**

- Review and edit Arts & Culture section of Town Plan — due by **August**.
- SACC will re-evaluate its mission and goals at the **next meeting**, including revising objectives and identifying achievable initiatives.
- Members to contribute ideas via Google Docs.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion to Adjourn:** Passed

**Adjourned At:** 10:04 AM