

Stowe Arts & Culture Council (SACC) Meeting Minutes

Date: February 11, 2026

PRESENT: Don Jones, Loren Polk, Barb Baraw, Rachel Moore, Seth Soloway, Beth Liberman, Sarah Opel

ABSENT: Aimee Green, Adrienne Johnson

No Visitors.

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:08 AM.
- II. Approval of Agenda: No changes were made to the agenda.
- III. Approval of Minutes: The January meeting minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously.
- IV. 2026 Action Plan & Role Assignments
 - a. The council continued discussion of the 2026 action plan, focusing on assigning lead responsibilities and establishing communication pathways for ongoing initiatives.
 - b. Liaison Roles Review & Updates. The council reviewed and refined liaison assignments intended to keep SACC informed about developments in the community relevant to arts and culture.
 - c. Updated Liaison Areas
 - Historical Review & Organizations
Barbara will continue monitoring historical review matters and maintain connections with local museums and historical organizations, including the Ski & Snowboard Museum and local historical society.
 - Planning & Regional Coordination
Rachel will maintain communication with the town planning office and monitor Lamoille County Planning Commission developments as needed.
 - Stowe Vibrancy / Community Events
Barbara will maintain periodic communication with Stowe Vibrancy.
 - Education & Schools
Sarah will continue liaison work with local schools and has already connected with middle/high school leadership.
 - External Arts Organizations
Beth will continue outreach to outside arts organizations and may invite organizations to future meetings.
 - Lodging, Travel & Leisure / SAA Connection
Amay and the new SAA representative will continue covering this area.
 - Faith Organizations
Seth will temporarily monitor arts- and culture-related activities within local faith organizations, including:
 - Stowe Community Church
 - JCOGS
 - St. John's Episcopal Church

- Vermont Arts Council Connection
Seth will serve as liaison to the Vermont Arts Council.

Coordination with Town Boards

The Chair will:

- Reach out to chairs of planning and development boards to introduce SACC's role.
- Request notification when projects relevant to arts and culture arise.
- Continue developing communication rhythm with the Town Manager's Office.

V. Action Plan Assignments

- a. Arts Directory / Cultural Clearinghouse. Discussion continued around creating a directory of local art and artists, particularly artwork displayed in local businesses.

Leads: Sarah and Adrienne (pending SAA collaboration)

External Communication Strategy

- i. The Chair will lead development of:
 - Public-facing communication
 - Front Porch Forum outreach
 - General education about SACC's role
 - ii. Amay may assist with communications and social media efforts.
- b. Stakeholder Communication System
 - i. The council discussed creating:
 - A listserv
 - Online communication form
 - Internal stakeholder network
 - ii. Lead: Loren
 - iii. The intent is to improve communication among arts and culture organizations without duplicating existing community calendars.
 - c. Quarterly Updates Template
 - i. The Chair will draft a template for regular updates to the town. Sarah offered to share sample templates.
 - d. Arts in Public Places Policy
 - i. Rachel will resend the existing Arts in Public Places policy document for future review and discussion.

VI. Diversity, Inclusion & Welcoming Initiative

- a. The council discussed developing a welcoming campaign connected to the town's Declaration of Inclusion. Ideas included:
 - Stickers
 - Flyers
 - Public-facing messaging
 - Coordination with SAA

- b. Potential timing:
 - Initial rollout at June SAA meeting
 - Broader visibility by July 4th tourism season
- c. Discussion Highlights

Members discussed:

- Balancing inclusion messaging with community sensitivities
 - Previous experiences involving public statements and signage
 - Rising concerns about hate symbols and incidents locally
 - The importance of proactive cultural education and community response
- d. Leads: Rachel and Sarah volunteered to help develop the initiative.
 - e. The council agreed this topic should become a dedicated agenda item at an upcoming meeting.

VII. Future Meetings

- The next meeting is planned to be held in person at the library.
- Members discussed improving liaison reporting by adding updates directly into future agendas.

VIII. Announcements & Community Updates

- a. Library Book Group. Loren announced the library book group will discuss *Just Mercy* later this month, with participation from local faith leaders and the rabbi.
- b. Bill McKibben Event. Rachel announced an upcoming event featuring Bill McKibben and encouraged members to RSVP.
- c. Town Meeting Reminder. Sarah encouraged participation in upcoming Town Meeting Day activities.
- d. Health Awareness Reminder. Beth reminded members that the day was recognized as “Pink Day” for breast cancer awareness and encouraged regular screenings and early detection.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:06 AM.