

Stowe Arts & Culture Council (SACC)

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 10, 2026

Location: Front Four Gallery (hosted by Jack)

Attendance: Don Jones, Sara Opel, Adrienne Johnson, Beth Liberman, Barb Baraw, Loren Polk (Town staff), Will Fricke (Town staff)

Guests: Jack (Front Four Gallery)

Absent: Rachel Moore, Seth Soloway, Brooke (Student rep), 2 vacant seats

- I. The meeting was called to order at 9:19 a.m.
- II. **Approval of Minutes**
Minutes from February, March, and April 2026 were presented as read.
Vote: Approved unanimously.
- III. **Welcome from Host Venue**
The Council thanked Jack and Front Four Gallery for hosting the meeting. Jack spoke about the importance of making art accessible to the community and discussed the gallery's role in bringing contemporary and thought-provoking art to Stowe. He encouraged Council members to attend future exhibitions and programs.
- IV. **Council Membership and Charter Discussion**
 - a. **Vacant Seats.** The Council discussed ongoing vacancies, particularly the seat designated for Stowe Performing Arts.
 - It was reported that there are currently two or three applicants for the vacant seat.
 - Candidates will be interviewed and considered through the Selectboard appointment process.
 - Council members may be asked to provide input regarding desired qualifications and organizational needs.
 - b. **Designated Organizational Seats.** A substantial discussion focused on whether the Council charter should continue to designate seats for specific organizations or move toward a more flexible structure. Current designated organizations include: The Current, Spruce Peak Arts, Stowe Historical Society, Stowe Area Association, and Stowe Performing Arts
Key points discussed:
 - Designated seats ensure major arts and cultural organizations maintain representation.
 - Vacancies can remain unfilled for extended periods when specific organizations are unable to appoint representatives.
 - Removing organization-specific designations could create greater flexibility but might reduce guaranteed representation from key community institutions.

- Several members expressed concern that eliminating designated seats entirely could result in an imbalance of representation.
- Discussion centered around reserving seats for arts and cultural organizations generally rather than naming specific organizations.

Emerging Consensus

The Council appeared to favor:

- Retaining organizational representation as a core component of Council membership.
- Potentially maintaining four designated seats for:
 - The Current
 - Spruce Peak Arts
 - Stowe Historical Society
 - Stowe Area Association
- Allowing both nonprofit and commercial arts/cultural organizations to be eligible for organizational seats.
- Exploring language that would allow organizational seats to be filled more flexibly if vacancies persist.

c. . Student Representation. The Council reviewed the role of the student representative seat. No formal action taken. Discussion points included:

- Difficulty maintaining consistent student participation due to school schedules and extracurricular commitments.
- Potential changes to allow:
 - A student representative with priority given to students; or
 - A school-designated representative if no student is available.
- Whether student representatives should remain voting members.
- Possibility of making the student position non-voting while increasing the number of at-large seats.
- Interest in maintaining youth perspectives within Council discussions while improving attendance and continuity.

d. Future Charter Revisions. The Council agreed that additional information and input are needed before making recommendations regarding charter revisions. The Council agreed to continue these discussions at its next meeting.

V. Next Meeting. The Council plans to reconvene in approximately two weeks to continue discussions regarding charter revisions and membership structure.

VI. Adjournment. The meeting concluded with thanks to Jack and Front Four Gallery for hosting and providing refreshments.