

Stowe Arts and Culture Council

## Minutes of special online meeting of the Stowe Arts & Culture Council

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

In attendance: Rachel Moore, Chair, Mort Butler, Lynn Paparella, Vice Chair, Sharon Harper, Charlotte Kastner, and Hope Sullivan, Clerk

Absent: Meghan Reichelt, Kelly Holt, and Shawn Kerivan

Also in attendance: Beth Lieberman, Charles Safford, Town Manager, and Tom Jackman.

Meeting was called to order at 9:12AM

On a motion duly seconded the minutes from Feb 2, 2021 were approved.

### 1. Minutes, Updates, and Reports

Lynn updated the group on a conversation with Congressman Welch that occurred on 3/8. Money will be coming to arts organizations and will be distributed to the states then towns and we will have the opportunity to access those funds through grant writing. Need help recovering but also, how to move forward. Tomorrow there's a meeting on how to present outdoors. Stowe Performing Arts still trying to figure out what to do. Rachel added that someone asked Peter Welch what biggest challenge is going forward and in terms of shrinking demographics, to grow communities, people want arts and culture and that's what will bring them here. Senator Leahy thinking in same vein.

### 2. Town Plan Discussion

Charles Safford talked about a number of things in the works in terms of DEI funding and training in Stowe. Stowe Police Dept were only dept in a recent study to be positively evaluated for traffic stops in the state. All policies are online on the homepage. Select board member Lisa Hagerty is working with REAL regarding a statement to bring to the town. Rachel posted draft statement that REAL is working on: *Stowe welcomes all people, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, age, ability, or means, and envisions a community that embodies inclusion, equity, and justice as values central to our identity. As a town, we formally condemn discrimination in all of its forms and commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community. Stowe is committed to building a safe community, where all people experience dignity and respect, and all are welcome with kindness and belonging.*

Charles also mentioned that there is not a lot of language in the town plan. Not required to be updated for a period of time but could do something on amendment basis. Current plan expires in 2026. Can see it online on the town's website. **We'll discuss current town plan at next meeting.**

[https://www.townofstowevt.org/vertical/sites/%7B97FA91EA-60A3-4AC6-8466-F386C5AE9012%7D/uploads/STOWE\\_TOWN\\_PLAN\\_adopted\\_6.8.15.pdf](https://www.townofstowevt.org/vertical/sites/%7B97FA91EA-60A3-4AC6-8466-F386C5AE9012%7D/uploads/STOWE_TOWN_PLAN_adopted_6.8.15.pdf)

Also discussed having seat on town planning commission for SACC member. Charles clarified that pretty much anyone with a level head and an interest would be welcomed.

Mort updated about the Stowe Theatre Guild, current president has not been present for a while and posted on FB recently that they are completely up in the air.

Hope updated about hybrid model activity happening through Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center.

Rachel updated that HDAC is planning to do Exposed and will work with the SACC around a Stowe Arts week etc. Also, there's a grant possibility for municipalities – Stowe could partner with other towns to pursue it. Charles clarified that you don't need select board approval to put a mural on school grounds.

<https://asphaltart.bloomberg.org/#:~:text=While%20cities%20incorporate%20art%20into,%2C%20traffic%20barriers%20and%20underpasses>).

Over the street banners – going to make it for select board approved messaging and event related banners.

Charles mentioned we're going to be repaving Moscow Road and wondered how to restore a sense of place there, lost general store and post office. People talked about a welcome sign or other placemaking things to give it a hub feeling again. Could be an option. Hope suggested having a member of SACC be part of the planning to represent creative ideas being part of the discussion. Beth lives on Moscow Road and would be happy to be part of it.

Tom clarified that the SACC could meet with the planning commission rather than having a member on it. All planning commission meetings are open to the public.

Rachel shared her screen and walked everyone through the Lamoille Art & Justice Project.

Hope shared link to Stowe 2020 plan:

[http://www.townofstowevt.org/vertical/sites/%7B97FA91EA-60A3-4AC6-8466-F386C5AE9012%7D/uploads/Stowe\\_Village\\_Vision\\_2020\\_final\\_smaller\\_file.pdf](http://www.townofstowevt.org/vertical/sites/%7B97FA91EA-60A3-4AC6-8466-F386C5AE9012%7D/uploads/Stowe_Village_Vision_2020_final_smaller_file.pdf)

Didn't get to discussion of values statement, will create a google doc so all can put ideas in, in advance.

On a motion duly seconded the meeting was adjourned at 10:05AM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Hope Sullivan