

**Agenda Summary**  
**March 27, 2024**

**Item A-3**  
**Arts & Culture Council Charge Amendment**

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**Summary:** The Stowe Arts & Culture Council has requested to amend the SACC Charge to convert one at-large seat to a reserved seat for the Stowe Historical Society. This would result in a configuration of four at-large seats, five reserved seats for organizations, and one seat reserved for a student member.

**Town Plan Impact:** N/A

**Fiscal Impact:** N/A

**Recommendation:** Move to approve the request from the SACC to update the SACC Charge to reflect proposed changes.

# **Town of Stowe Selectboard**

## **Stowe Arts & Culture Council Charge**

**Purpose:** To establish and promote Stowe as an arts and culture destination for quality of life and for economic development purposes.

**Objectives:**

1. To represent and advocate for the needs and desires of arts and culture nonprofit and for-profit organizations in Stowe.
2. To seek collaboration with the public, schools, municipality, and business community to further their goals through arts and cultural activities.
3. To explore and promote ways to address cultural, social, and environmental issues through arts education and integration.
4. To advise and participate in integration of arts and culture in town planning decisions including the Selectboard, Planning Commission, and other municipal bodies.
5. To encourage commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion across all sectors of the community.

**Council:** The Council will be comprised of up to ten members annually appointed by the Selectboard. The members do not have to be Stowe residents or taxpayers but should have a demonstrated interest in advancing the arts and/or represent an arts or culture organization that serves the Town of Stowe. Seats shall be reserved for The Current, Stowe Performing Arts Center, ~~and~~ Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, and the Stowe Historical Society. A seat shall also be reserved for the Stowe Area Association and a student representative. In addition, there shall be ~~five~~ four seats at-large. The representatives from these named organizations shall be recommended by their respective boards and subject to appointment by the Selectboard. In accordance with the Stowe Town Charter, the Town Manager is an ex-officio member of all standing committees and shall have the right to attend and participate in all meetings but may not vote.

**Ethics Policy:** All Council members shall be required to sign an acknowledgement form indicating that they have read and understand Stowe's Ethics Policy.

**Meetings:** All meetings are subject to the Vermont Open Meeting Law. As such, the meetings shall be warned, open to the public and press, and minutes shall be taken. Copies of all minutes shall be provided to the Manager's Executive Assistant for distribution to the Stowe Selectboard or others that may request them.

**Staffing:** The Town Manager or his/ her designee shall provide staff support.

**Municipal Budget:** The Town will earmark \$2,000 out of its administrative contingency line item FY'21 (6/30/20- 7/1/21). Future appropriations shall be considered by the Selectboard during the annual budget development process and are subject to voter approval. This money

may be used for, but is not limited to, promotion/ marketing, legal ads, research and incidentals that may be necessary to assist the Stowe Arts & Culture Council in their mission. All expenditures shall be done through the municipal staff assigned to the Committee in accordance with Stowe's Purchasing Policy. Any stipend for SACC representative(s) must be separately approved by the Stowe Selectboard.

**Grants:** The Stowe Arts & Culture Council may apply for grants, under the Town of Stowe, in accordance with Stowe's Purchasing Policy. The Selectboard must approve any grant that requires a financial match beyond what has been pre-approved in the Stowe Arts & Culture Council budget or otherwise commits the Town of Stowe to a long-term obligation beyond one year. The Town Manager may approve any grant that is within the pre-approved budget appropriation, that doesn't require a match or obligate the Town of Stowe beyond one year.

**Donations:** The Town Treasurer may accept donations to be separately accounted from other municipal funds. Any active solicitation of donations, earmarking of them for a specific purpose, or expenditure of donations shall be for lawful purposes with the approval of the Stowe Arts & Culture Council and the Selectboard. All expenditures shall be made in accordance with the Stowe Purchasing Policy and must be approved for payment by the Town Manager or his/ her designee staffing the Stowe Arts & Culture Council. Any donations that remain if the Stowe Arts & Culture Council is disbanded will be spent subject to Selectboard approval on arts and cultural activities in the Town of Stowe.

Town of Stowe Arts and Culture Commission  
Wednesday, March 14, 2024, 9 am.

## **SACC MARCH 2024 MINUTES**

### **Members and Staff Present:**

Rachel Moore, Chair (The Current)  
Aimee Green  
Mort Butler  
Seth Soloway (Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center)  
Don Jones  
Beth Lieberman  
Loren Polk, SACC Administrator (Stowe Free Library)  
Will Fricke, Assistant Town Manager

### **Public Present:**

Barbara Beraw (Stowe Historical Society),  
Tanya Johnson (Stowe Theater Guild),  
Sarah Opal (Stowe Resident)

### **Call to Order:**

Meeting was called to order at 9:02.

### **Public Comments & Adjustments to the Agenda:**

No comment or adjustments.

### **Approval of minutes:**

February minutes were not available at time of posting.  
Motion to approve December 2023 minutes as written.  
Motion passed.

### **Committee Updates:**

- Strategic Research Committee has completed 5 interviews with organizations across the country. The committee will now summarize and present findings, hopefully during the April meeting. Rachel clarified for new viewers that the Strategic Research Committee is working to understand other implementations of arts and culture councils in municipal planning.
- Town Plan Committee has been on pause pending Town Meeting Day. Plan is to resume meeting with Sarah McShane now that Town Meeting is complete.
- Education Committee has been on pause as well. Seth will be taking on the lead role for the Education Committee, and Aimee has offered to support the committee as well. Rachel clarified the committee's focus is toward advocacy and education.

### **Old Business:**

No old business

### **New Business**

*Arts and Culture Commission meetings are open to the public.  
For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations please call 253-2705.*

- Barbara Baraw, of Stowe Historical Society, introduced herself and explained the Historical Society previously had 2 board members participating with the SACC, but has not been a participant since the council joined the Town.  
Board members discussed the benefits and drawbacks of allocating a seat to a specific organization. Will Fricke, Assistant Town Manager, explained the recommendation would go to the Selectboard for consideration once proposed by the SACC, and suggested with 2 vacancies on the Board an optimal plan would be to request one position come from the Historical Society and establish a board of 5 organization members and 4 at-large positions.  
Mort made a motion to recommend to the Selectboard that SACC dedicate one committee position to the Stowe Historical Society. Aimee seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Rachel additionally acknowledged that with Mort and Peggy stepping down, there will be an additional at large position open. Rachel thanked Mort for her service since the inception of the SACC and her contribution to the website, promotion, selectboard meetings, and her interest in dedicating her voice to keeping arts and culture present in the hearts and minds of Stowe.
- Rachel asked for nominations of scribe to the committee. Beth volunteered. Rachel made a motion, motion passed unanimously.
- Loren introduced Will Fricke.
- The committee discussed various methods to advertise the committee positions (Student representative and at-large position) through the community.
- With Mort stepping down, the committee discussed who might take over the website maintenance for the SACC page. Mort spoke about the five domain names and social media accounts that would need to be maintained. Don volunteered. Loren spoke briefly about the Town of Stowe's purchasing policy. Mort, Don, and Loren will meet to share information.
- Rachel updated the committee on the interest to expand inclusivity, accessibility, and equality through Town boards and policies. As background, a Declaration of Inclusion was proposed to the Selectboard through a citizen group. The DEI can now be found on the website, and the citizen group would like to promote this further with an establishment of term limits and further DEI work. Rachel will be connecting with Charles to discuss possible paths forward.

#### Other discussion

- Beth inquired about "Stowe Arts Summer". Mort gave some background information about the event in 2023, and suggested additional planning and focus would be beneficial. The committee discussed how long the event should last – for an entire summer or for one week, as originally created. Additionally, the committee discussed how varied the list of events should be.
- Additional discussion focused on the definition of "arts" and "culture", and the need to identify this language in order to clearly define eligible events for SACC promotion. Types of promotion were discussed. Rachel will investigate definitions to propose to the SACC.
- The committee discussed online, subcommittee, and quorum meetings and obligations to be in compliance with OPM. All subcommittees must be warned and posted, regardless of committee participation numbers. Will shared a court case that recently altered the way that all subcommittees must be operated in compliance with OPM. An OPM training will be available on April 17<sup>th</sup>. In response to this requirement, Rachel suggested the subcommittees agree to set days and times for schedules, and the agendas can be warned through Loren.
- Mort mentioned the eclipse will bring lots of events to the community. SACC spoke about best ways to help manage advertising and support the town to prevent congestion.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:05

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Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 10.

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