



TOWN OF STRATFORD
MAYOR LAURA HOYDICK

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MAYOR NAMES RESIDENTS TO SHAKESPEARE TASK FORCE
Committee will organize community discussions on future of theater property

STRATFORD – **Mayor Laura R. Hoydick** has named eleven town residents to serve on a newly-formed Shakespeare Property Task Force, which will be managed through the Stratford Redevelopment Agency (RDA). This task force will manage the community conversations for the future public use of the grounds that once held the historic American Shakespeare Festival Theater.

Mayor Hoydick said that a facilitating consultant would be hired to work with the task force to set up charrettes and gatherings so interested parties and the public at large can come out and voice their thoughts and share their visions about what the future use of the theater property will be.

“The formation of this task force is the first critical step in ensuring that we move forward quickly, but diligently and transparently, in resolving what the Town of Stratford will do with the Shakespeare Theater property,” said **Mayor Hoydick**. “There are many visions about how the Town should move forward with this property, and we want to make sure everyone who wants to be a part of this process can be. This committee will provide the forum for the voices of the community to be heard.”

Hoydick said that at the conclusion of the formal community conversations, the task force will compile a report to be reviewed by the RDA and submitted to the Town Council. “This task force is not making decisions about the future of the property,” Mayor Hoydick stressed. “They are assembling the desires and visions across our diverse community for review by the Town Council.”

Hoydick added that for those who had hoped to be a part of the task force but were not selected, there remains a great deal of work to do, and they will have a role. “Many people reached out to us looking to help with the work of this task force, and I thank each and every person who is offering to be a part of the future of the Shakespeare property,” said Hoydick. “I can assure everyone who wants to be a part of the future of this property that there will be an important role for them going forward – this is just the beginning.”



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The individuals named by the Mayor to the Shakespeare Property Task Force are:

- Anthony Nizzardo – *co chair*
- Tom Dillon - *co-chair*
- Al Baran
- Amanda Meeson
- Ed Goodrich
- Eric Hampton
- Peter Wood
- Sib Law
- Scott Bartelson
- Patti Sorrentino-Galello
- Frank Bevacqua

Hoydick noted that the RDA managed the community outreach process for the former Center School property and she imagined this process being facilitated in a similar way.

Those wishing to receive updates on the town's progress on the Shakespeare Theater property can send their name, email and phone number to Shakespeare@TownofStratford.com to be added to the information distribution list.

The American Shakespeare Festival Theater, which held its last performance in the late 1980's and was vacant, was destroyed by a fire in the early morning hours of January 13th. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

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