

**Minutes of the November 7 2021 Annual Meeting  
of the Friends of the Plainfield Town Hall Opera House**

In attendance were board members Sarah Harding, Kathy Light, Steven Light, Lori Stratton, Dave Strong and Keith Swann and the following members: Glenda Bissex, Chris Ditmeyer, Bob & Kathy Fancher, Joseph Gainza, Joey Klein, John Klimenok, Sara Norton, Cecile Sherburn, Jamie Spector, Joan Stepenske, Robert Troester, Laura Zeisel and Betsy Ziegler.

President Swann called the meeting at the Plainfield Town Hall Opera House to order at 3:50 pm.

He welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that it was our first “annual meeting” in over two years due to Covid (the previous one being on July 1, 2019). He noted that during that interval several improvements were made to the Hall, including bringing the rigging for stage lighting and curtains up to code. We also completed the Full House Fund campaign and prepared the lot we purchased for additional parking.

Keith then introduced board member Sarah Harding who made a brief presentation on the planning that is underway to explore a new arrangement between the Town and the Friends of the PTHOH; one which would entail the lease of the building instead of simply managing it on the Town’s behalf, the way it is now. This would streamline management and programming decisions and provide for improved continuity and marketing incentive. Greater volunteer involvement will be needed to pull it off.

Keith then called for votes on the following motions:

1) To express our gratitude to Tom Blachy and to Jesse Clayton for their years of devoted service as members of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Plainfield Town Hall Opera House.

2) Shall the following individuals be elected to the Board of Directors for the terms indicated?

Sarah Harding - for a term as director ending July 2024  
Steven Light - for a term as director ending July 2024  
Lori Stratton - for a term as director ending July 2024  
David Strong - for a term as director ending July 2023

3) Shall Article IV, section 2 of the Bylaws of the Friends of the Plainfield Town Hall Opera House be amended to read “the number of directors of the corporation shall be no more than nine (9)”?

All motions were passed unanimously in sequence.

Keith then introduced board member Dave Strong, who reported on the completion of the Full House Fund Campaign to raise money to purchase the property at 25 High Street (property which had been earmarked by the Town as a likely location for future expansion of parking) after the proposition that the Town acquire the property for \$60,000 was defeated.

He observed that the \$50,000 fundraising campaign, which was launched three years ago in August, succeeded thanks to the hard work of our Full House Fund Campaign Committee and the generosity of supporters of the Town's historic performance and meeting space.

He summarized the expenditure of the funds raised as follows:

Mortgage payments absorbed half of the Fund (\$20,000 to paid down our eight-year, \$5,000/year interest-free mortgage and \$5,000 remains on account for next year's payment).

Another \$22,000 was spent clearing and grading the site: \$5,000 for asbestos removal; \$7,000 to dispose of demolition debris; \$7,500 to deconstruct the abandoned residential structure (not counting many hours of demolition labor contributed by volunteers); and \$2,500 to grade the lot.

The remainder of the funds raised paid for taxes, the maintenance of the lot, and the repair of the carriage barn – a building that is available for the storage of staging, scenery and props for theater productions.

He expressed special thanks to Ki Walker, who deconstructed the building, and to Nathan and Tim Phillips, who spearheaded the volunteer demolition effort. The three volunteers who led the Full House Fund Campaign – Lauren Geiger, Andy Robinson, and Betsy Ziegler – were also thanked with Certificates of Appreciation. A mock-up of the plaque listing the names of the individuals and organizations who contributed to the Full House Fund was circulated.

Keith adjourned the meeting at 4:10 pm and invited all present to proceed outside for refreshments on the lawn and a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new parking area.

Respectfully submitted,

David Strong, Acting Secretary