

Minutes of the October 19, 2020 Friends of Plainfield Town Hall Opera House Board Meeting

In attendance were directors Dave Strong, Keith Swann, Tom Blachly, Kathy Light, Jesse Clayton, Sarah Harding, and Lori Stratton, and member Steven Light.

Keith called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.

The following agenda was approved:

- Approve minutes of September 21 meeting and October 12 meeting
- President's report
 - Vermont Arts Council grant project
 - Amended proposed FY20/21 contract with the Town
- Status of Vermont Youth Theater complaint
- Status of Nicholas Hecht's materials stored in carriage barn
- Update of electrical work for the improvements
- Update on improvements at 25 High Street
- Thinking about the future-discussion
- Other Business
- Next meeting date, adjournment

The minutes of the October 12 special meeting were approved as written.

Minutes of September 21 meeting were approved with one amendment: that Full House Fund raised \$2,000, still needs \$3,000; and one addition: that Dave is getting estimates for grading the parking lot at 25 High Street.

President's report:

VT Arts Council grant – The Town was awarded the matching grant for \$8,220 from Arts Council for stage lighting improvements. Sasha of the selectboard needs to sign it. The selectboard will discuss it at their meeting next Monday. The matching grant means that the town will initially pay for all the expenses and the Arts Council will reimburse them 50% (\$4,100). Keith will be in charge of overseeing the work.

Contract with selectboard - Next Monday (10/26/20) the selectboard will discuss renewing contract with FPTHOH. Dave revised contract to front-end all of the things that we are doing and/or can do short of managing events at the Opera House. Fifteen services were identified above and beyond management, at a worth totaling approximately \$3,000. If the opera house is re-opened during the remainder of the contract period, we agree to do management tasks without extra charge. It costs \$1,800 (includes PO Box, insurance, website) just to “keep the lights on”. Also, the FPTHOH owns the piano and “rents” it to the town at no charge for use at the Opera house.

It was noted that Jim Volz, a selectboard member, has made a donation of \$200, which covers a quarter of the insurance premium. Next Monday is the selectboard meeting and it would be good for anyone on the PTHOH to attend (via ZOOM).

The revised contract was approved on a motion made by Tom and seconded by Kathy.

Status of VT Youth Theater complaint:

Tom has made a counter proposal.

Storage of stuff in carriage barn/Update on Electrical work:

Nicholas should be contacted about his stuff that is stored there, and told about the new storage rental agreement.

Alana Norway, electrician, is quarantining with her family member testing positive for COVID-19. She is getting behind in her work, so it may be a while to get to ours. She said she definitely has us on her list.

Update on improvements at 25 High Street:

Full House Fund raised \$39,000 since the drive started in August 2018, plus \$6,600 in pledges, which totals \$46,600. It should receive \$4,000 by Dec 31st from 2020 pledges. That leaves us about \$4,500 short. Dave said the grading estimate was more than he thought it would be. It would include spreading granite staymat over the entire area and compacting it, plus raising the grade at the front of the lot, near the retaining wall, approximately 2 feet. He has received an estimate from Paul Lamberti for \$8,700. It was agreed that this was too much for us to pay. Dave said that another contractor, Kevin Hudson, had expressed an interest in the job. Dave will solicit a bid from him. He added that lilies were planted by Betsy Zeigler in the front yard of the parking lot, near the foundation.

Thinking about the future:

Kathy talked about the Vermont Creative Network (VCN), a coalition of performing arts and cultural organizations and venues who are discussing creative ways of being active during the pandemic and beyond. There was a session on October 6th and another session is happening soon. It was suggested that a member (members) of the FPTHOH should attend a session and bring back ideas to the group. Sarah volunteered to be a bridge and attend sessions.

Next meeting: November 16, 2020, 6:30 PM

Adjourned : 7:31 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Stratton, 11/15/20

Amended by Dave, 12/7/20

