

Draft Minutes of the Friends of Plainfield Town Hall Opera House Board (FPTHOH) meeting for June 21, 2021

In attendance were board members Dave Strong, Lori Stratton, Keith Swann, Sarah Harding, Jesse Clayton and Kathy Light

Also in attendance was Program Coordinator, Steven Light

President Swann called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm

Approved following agenda:

Approve minutes of May 17th meeting

Treasurer's report

-status of the budget ending June 30

Secretary's report

-plans for July 17th annual meeting

Program Committee report

-summer performance series update

President's report

-status of our proposals to selectboard

-update on lighting project

Other business/next meeting

Adjourn

-Tabled May 17th minutes until next meeting

-Treasurer's Report-

For the budget, there is a change from \$2000 to \$1500 (town contract). Jesse is waiting for the check. He will pay \$5,000 for mortgage plus insurance for liability. Jesse suggested we think of ways to cut expenses, like website management and proposed raising membership fees. The board reviewed the budget that goes from July 2021 to the end of June. There was a budget covering operating expenses and another budget covering the concert series, as well as a comparison with and without a contract with the town.

Secretary's Report-

The annual meeting this year will follow the Craftbury Chamber Players concert on July 17th. The concert is from 4:00 pm to 5:30 PM, and the annual meeting will be at 6:00 PM. There are 5 vacant positions on the Board as of July 2021, so members should announce if they want to stay on the board or not. Keith will check with Jamie about getting ready to eat food like pizza, vegetable and cheese trays plus bottles of bubbly and nonalcoholic beverages. The agenda will

include outline of lease plan to get public feedback, fund drive celebration and board member elections. The recent survey supported that music and food help to get people to a meeting. Another newsletter should go out at the end of July.

-Summer Performance Series/Program Committee Report-

Kathy suggested that we need signage (sandwich board) in the lower village and at the entrance to rec field. The canopy will be put up on Saturday as well as a table for signing people up and taking donations. Dave Keller will arrive at 2:00 or 2:30. At 10 am on Thursday, platforms need to be moved from Dave's barn to the rec field and on Friday be put together. Keith is going to talk to Jamie about getting the apple fries vendor. We agreed to make a policy to pay half the agreed fare to the artist if the artist establishes a rain date and can't perform on the rain date. We passed the motion to commit to playing the artist in case of rain on the rain date. Both Dave Keller and Modern Times Theater have rain dates.

-President's Report

Keith reported about attending the Plainfield Selectboard meeting. The SB liked proposal #1. Tammy was concerned that the town would not be able to use the hall like a public space and that it would turn into a private management organization. Tammy suggested that we write up a contract and propose it to them. She did not like a \$1 lease fee and was concerned that they would not have any income to pay for maintenance. For example, they would need maintenance costs for town meetings. The SB proposed that the first \$3000 we would keep, and after that, a certain percentage of income would go to the town. Tammy asked if we want a longer term, like 5 years, contract instead, with our present set up. She proposed this because she knows that every year, it is a problem getting a contract.

We discussed whether or not to have a public forum and have a public hearing so the public can bring input into the issue. Jesse suggested that we figure out when we want to start a new agreement. Dave suggested that September 1st can be a goal. Committee for the contract (Sarah, Jesse, Keith) will get it together for the July SB meeting. The agreement will have a clause that says we will provide them with figures for income and expenditures at the end of the lease. Sarah emphasized that having a public meeting would be a disaster because although $\frac{2}{3}$ of the SB supports what we want, it will become polarized because public members will choose sides. We are a public non-profit entity and therefore have a public mission, so we are not obligated to have a public hearing. It was suggested that we use a lease as a two year trial and then reevaluate and see if it benefits everyone. Jesse suggested three years because the COVID fallout will make the first year a recovery, so three years would give us two years of experimentation.

Keith talked to Dark Star again. They did not meet this month but are planning to come soon. Grant deadline to get the work done is in August, but Keith assured us that we can get an extension.

Other business-

Bridge construction in town will take 90 days. The town wants to use the Town hall parking lot to store town equipment, so others will use our lot for local businesses.

We discussed reevaluating membership fees. Individual membership could be raised to \$35.00 and there could be a family membership. We might restructure the rental and have a different rate for non profit organizations. Steve said he will get a “Square” device so concert attendees can pay with a credit card.

Keith is getting a vinyl banner from Staples for \$100 that will say Friends of PTHOH.

-Next Meeting: July 17, 2021

-Adjourned 8:10 pm

Respectfully submitted by Lori J. Stratton, July 18, 2021