

**Agenda**  
**Town of Skowhegan**  
**Opera House Committee Meeting**  
**3:00 PM**  
**Tuesday May16th, 2023**

**Committee Members:**

Cara Mason, Chairman  
Lyn Govoni  
Jeff Hewett  
Fred Liebfried  
Todd Smith

**Recording Secretary:**

Lisa Gallant

**Call meeting to order.**

1. Discussion and decision to approve the minutes from the April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting.
  
2. Update from “Friends of Skowhegan Opera House”.
  
3. Discussion regarding updates to the business plan.
  
4. Discussion regarding Meeting times.
  
5. Other business.

**Adjourn meeting.**

**Minutes  
Town of Skowhegan  
Opera House Committee Meeting  
3:00 P.M.  
Tuesday April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Committee Members:**

Jeff Hewett  
Lyn Govoni  
Fred Liebfried

**Absent:**

Cara Mason, Chairman

**Recording Secretary:**

Lisa Gallant

**Call meeting to order.**

Jeff Hewett called the meeting to order at 3:05 P.M.

**1. Discussion and decision to approve the minutes from the March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 meeting.**

Fred 1<sup>st</sup> – Lyn 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote 3/0 motion carries.

**2. Update from Friends of Skowhegan Opera House.**

Lyn Govoni said they just had the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual HOOSKOW Radio Extravaganza and there were 41 ticketed audience members, with 66 tickets sold. In addition, they had \$2600.00 in sponsorships with a total of 17 sponsors. There was an art and a bake sale that did very well. John Harlow taped the show, and last year he put it up on You Tube for everyone to see.

Jeff Hewett said that if John Harlow puts it out there, we can do a NEWS FLASH on the town website to help promote the show. If there is a 3<sup>rd</sup> show, we can put it up again to kind of let people know what it is all about. There may be a lot more people that may have an interest.

Fred Liebfried thinks that Lyn Govoni should bring numbers for monthly, and yearly totals from shows to highlight the work that "Friends" has done for the Opera House renovations. He thinks it should be recognized and on record and add it to the "Friends" update.

Jeff Hewett said he thinks the hours spent on what "Friends" have done should also be brought to the next meeting, even a rough idea. Time spent as well as monetary is big as far as receiving grants. Some foundations want to see the time that is put in. Lyn Govoni doesn't have an amount at this meeting for the "Friends" costs, postage, programs etc. She can go back and get the figures for the next meeting from sales and sponsorship. She can give an estimate on how many hours she has put in. Fred Liebfried said it is also a good motivator to see how far "Friends" have come over the years, this year compared to last year.

Jeff Hewett asked if we have ever asked SAHS to come do one of their shows here? Lyn Govoni said no due to them having their own auditorium. But she thinks it would be a big draw if when Tom Chapin comes next year, we could get the chorus' together so we could get kids up singing onstage with Tom. SAMS and MCSS, she can contact their music directors to see if they might be interested. She thinks a big draw would be for parents to see their children singing onstage with Tom.

Jeff Hewett asked if Lyn Govoni has the information for Tom Chapin's next show so he can add it to our website. Lyn said she does not, but once she has the information, she will get it to him.

Jeff Hewett said he can set up an Opera House section for NEWS FLASHES for upcoming shows.

### **3. Discussion regarding updates to the business plan.**

Jeff Hewett asked how we want to go through the business plan. Page one and go down through?

Fred Liebfried said he read a disturbing email recently with the fire curtain, rigging, lighting, sound etc., he heard a figure for around \$20 million for renovations. He just doesn't know how to approach with the structure, fire curtain, stairs etc. We can continue to try and grow it but if we are not able to do anything, we could shut it down until we find someone to fund it. He asked if it is on the National Historical register?

Jeff Hewett said it is on the National Historical Register. He has some concerns on where things are going upstairs due to cost. We have tried to get the money with grants, but have not been able to get them. We need an idea on costs and what we need for a person. The numbers we are seeing are too big. We need the structural report back first and we need the construction costs etc.

All agree they need a structural report before making any decisions.

Fred Liebfried said whether we piece meal or shut down and renovate, we need a person. A spokesperson to make decisions and be knowledgeable about renovations, and someone with a dedication to the end result.

Lyn Govoni said we need a producing entity.

Fred Liebfried said would we need a figurehead, a person to work with the whole Opera House, from renovations right down to the end picture. A face of the place, a foreman of some sort, a promoter.

Jeff Hewett said he thinks each member should think about the who and what a person is that we would need for a project manager.

Fred Liebfried said he would draw up a draft of what he thinks it should like. He thinks the next agenda should include; each board member put together what they think the person in charge of the big picture would look like. Example: Qualifications, Duties, Responsibilities.

Jeff Hewett asked if a later meeting would work for everyone, 5:00 or 5:30.

Lyn Govoni said Todd Smith has asked for later meetings. Others who would like to attend cannot due to it being during the day.

Jeff said he can change the day to Monday or Wednesday if people are interested.

Lyn said in the past more would have come if it was later. She will check with others if there is an interest on a later time, she will research.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:54 P.M.**