

**MINUTES**  
**OPERA HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**April 17, 2018**  
**3:00 PM**  
**Municipal Building – Council Room**

**Present:**

Jon Kimball  
Gene Rouse  
Cara Mason  
Jeff Hewett  
Fred Liebfried

**Absent:**

Brad Adams  
Jim Preble

**Others Present:**

Dena Rich, Recording Secretary  
Mary Haley

**Call regular meeting to order.**

Jon Kimball called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., quorum was met.

**1. Chair's Report**

Jon Kimball did say that about 3 weeks ago that he did meet with Christine Almand, Jeff Hewett and Gene Rouse. Jon Kimball said to help to clarify for him what this committee was about and what it was created for. Jon Kimball said he would talk more about this during the rest of the meeting.

**2. Items by the Committee**

At this meeting there were no items by the Committee.

**3. Approve the Opera House Committee Meeting minutes from the January 5, 2017 and January 26, 2018 meetings.**

Motion by Gene Rouse, seconded by Jeff Hewett to approve the January 5, 2017 meeting minutes as written. Vote 5-0, motion carried.

Motion by Jeff Hewett, seconded by Gene Rouse to approve the January 26, 2018 meeting minutes as written. Vote 5-0, motion carried.

**4. Introduction of Fred Liebfried to the Opera House Committee with a term expiring June 30, 2018.**

Jon Kimball introduced Fred Liebfried as a new member to the Opera House Committee he asked Fred to give a brief overview of what he does as the Artistic Director of the Sparrows Nest Theater on Route 148 in West Mills.

Fred Liebfried said he had acted at both Lakewood Theater and Waterville Opera House for a lot of years, then at the age of 44 he decided to get a MFA degree at the University of South Dakota. Sparrows Nest Theater is about 7 to 8 miles out of Anson which is an old Church building which has morphed into a theater. The Theater was founded by his wife Diane Liebfried. He has been looking for opportunities to promote his art that has given him so much in his life and the local area.

**5. Discussion and decision whether to increase the existing size of the Opera House Committee and/or form an additional volunteer committee called Friends of the Skowhegan Opera House whose purpose would be to raise funds for Opera House renovations.**

The Committee had a brief discussion whether they felt an increase to the existing committee would be beneficial and how fundraising should be handled; such as who would do this and how to best show the operations of the Opera House to be presented to be able to apply for grants and ask for donations.

Motion by Gene Rouse, seconded by Jeff Hewett to make recommendation to the Selectmen to increase the Opera House Committee by two additional members and appoint Mary Haley as one of the new members. Vote 5-0, motion carried.

Motion by Gene Rouse, seconded by Jeff Hewett to work with WesArt to create a Business Plan for the Skowhegan Opera House. Vote 5-0, motion carried. (Jon Kimball, Fred Liebfried and Mary Haley volunteered to work on this).

Motion by Jeff Hewett, seconded by Gene Rouse to form a volunteer fundraising group called "Friends of the Skowhegan Opera House" whose purpose is to raise money for the renovations and ultimately to subsidize the producing entity. Vote 5-0, motion carried. (Bring a list of names back to next meeting.)

**6. Discussion and approval of the current restroom designs for backstage and in the lobby.**

Motion by Gene Rouse, seconded by Jon Kimball to table this item due to not seeing the changes from Wentworth Partners. Vote 5-0, motion carried.

**7. Discussion of the upcoming Energy Audit for the Municipal Building and of a timeline priority for Opera House renovations.**

Jeff Hewett let the Committee know that the Town is already in the process of some of the engineering for the Energy Audit. There is a person coming tomorrow to look at the structural aspects of the building, the empty spaces between floors and the furnaces.

There has already been a group come in to look at the lighting, also a group has come in with thermometer data loggers to check the temperatures throughout the building. Hopefully, sometime in the next 60 days we will see a plan brought back to the Town to see what comes out of the audit that would help in the Opera House Project. Jeff Hewett said he did not believe that they would be doing any sound deadening between the floors. But be looking at closing in those spaces to keep the cold air from coming down from the attic into the Opera House then down into the main floor of the building.

Jon Kimball asked is it possible if somebody who knows about sound could talk with this company?

Jeff Hewett said he has already talked with Steve Govoni and told him that Siemens may be contacting him to link in with this project.

**8. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$3,436.25 from the Opera House Special Revenue Account for additional work on the Opera House Renovation Design.**

The Committee at this time tabled this item.

Jon Kimball said we should negotiate with Steve Govoni to work with Siemens to make sure that the Opera House projects are included in the Energy Audit projects if work is already being done in certain areas of the Opera House.

Jeff Hewett said he would talk with Steve Govoni and email back the Committee of what Steve Govoni says.

**9. Other Business**

**a. Discuss and approve future regular meeting dates and times.**

The Committee agreed to have future meetings on a monthly basis every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 3:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building Council Room.

**10. Upcoming topics for discussion at future meeting:**

- Discussion of a fundraising plan.
- Discussion of a business plan for the operation of the Opera House.
- Discussion of adopting the Somerset County Rural Cultural Plan as a guide for future use of cultural assets.

Above topics were not discussed at this meeting.

**Adjourn Skowhegan Opera House Committee's Meeting.**

Motion by Gene Rouse, seconded but Jeff Hewett to adjourn at 4:10 p.m.