

Meeting of Town of Exeter Arts & Culture Advisory Commission

Date: 04/20/2023 Time: 5:30

This meeting takes place in the Town Hall Art Gallery.

In attendance: Marissa Vitolo, Scott Ruffner, Todd Heron, Dawn Amey, Flo Ruffner Bruce Jones

Absent: Julie Gilman, Mary Page-Provost, Tony Callendrello

Call to order: 5:31p

Town Hall Masterplan

- Discuss priorities of the Town Hall expenditures recommendation in light of new circumstances and information involving town hall use, chairs, and funding support.
- We were not on Selectboard agenda at least meeting to discuss as previously thought.
- Scott Ruffner found a much cheaper option through Sam's club for the same chairs that we were looking into directly through the Lifetime website.
- Pine street players will need to move their upcoming production to Exeter High School due to the closing of the balcony. Access is needed for hanging lights and production equipment. They have already sold \$5,000 in tickets. Unfortunate circumstances for both the arts community and downtown businesses as 800 people will now be diverted to EHS instead of being downtown for their 3 performances on Mother's Day Weekend.
- Discussion concerning our mission and purpose, which is to first and foremost support the artists, performers, organizations and events in our town. We are in a difficult situation right now with both Swasey Park and Town Hall unavailable for events and performances.
- We have secured donations for new chairs at Town Hall from Water Street Bookstore (\$1,000), Lit Fest (\$360), Kiwanis/UFO Fest (\$1,000) Pine Street Players (\$1,000 pending approval from their board, since they now have to allocate more funds to rent EHS auditorium. We have several other donations pending approval, and also a plan to raise additional funds through the sale of the old wooden chairs.
- Bob Glowacky stepped in to offer additional information about the status and current use of some of the equipment in Town Hall including the aging stage lighting system and metal chairs. He recommended filling out a "surplus" form to address these issues.
- Scott Ruffner motions to give the following recommendations to the Selectboard at their meeting on 5/1 :
 - The EACAC recommends the following actions in order of priority:
 - The town to purchase 240 "Putty on Grey" Lifetime Commercial Grade Contoured Folding Chairs chairs from Sam's Club online store, in the amount of \$7,198.80, with the use of donor funds and AARPA funds. With a Sam's Club "PLUS" membership (cost \$110) shipping of the chairs is free of charge.
 - The town to immediately address the railing issue in the town hall balcony so that future events can access the space for technical sound, lighting, and filming equipment.

- The town to fund the “Future Needs Assessment” (\$9,900) and the “Historic Building Conditions Assessment” (\$8,750) from the Town Hall Revolving Fund (current balance appx \$24,600).
- Unanimous vote in favor of motion.

Adjourned 6:02pm