

What activities or events would you like to see happen in the Town Hall?

Music

I would like to see more national and regional musicians perform, local and international film festivals, lectures, etc.

I'd be open to pretty much anything.

Plays, musicals& art shows

Music, author presentations, NH Humanities presentations, art exhibits, children's performances, movie nights, square dancing(?)

Plays, movies, concerts, political events, private events (weddings, etc.), functions (book signings, etc.).

Anything and everything. The more use, the more revenue generated, the more vibrancy to our downtown (which will help Exeter businesses), the better!

Live music and art shows.

Theater and art

Community events, music concerts, plays, town meetings.

Music events featuring NH and NE organizations, art shows, community dances (town wide square dance?), old movies (Casablanca? :)),

All sorts of arts, theatre, dance, visual arts, music, literary events, film, Christmas events, political candidate showings, etc. Christmas holiday events...

Convert to department use by whoever needs it: town offices, parks and rec, whoever. Maintain the stage for meetings or performances depending on who's occupying it

Cultural events relevant to the town and the surrounding communities. This would include school events, town events, but not for-hire events by businesses.

Civic presentations, arts and education programs.

Theatre!

Arts and recreation

Bake sales, art shows, love the tree event-so maybe other holiday events, things you walk through

Art events / live music / films (mini film festival!?) /

Music, plays, tree festivals, craft fairs, story tellers

Better production facilities for youth theater especially Pine Street Players
more theatre

Volunteer to lower taxes

More art, education, cultural opportunities

Pine Street Players performances!

Plays, comedy, movies, live theater

Concerts, lectures, candidates, Meet The Author, musical theater, plays, movies

Plays , art shows

Theater, performance, cultural events

Plays, musical theatre, performances

Anything! Plays, yard sales, Festival of Trees, voting, etc

Art shows, classes, lectures and concerts, political talks and candidates

Meetings, performances, community activities like movie nights

Acoustic music events for small audiences with refreshments

Concerts, speakers, public meetings

Stage & Music Productions, plus civic gatherings

More small theater plays, music, speaking events.
blood drives, charity events, art performances,

Everything and anything that can be accommodated in the beautiful space. I was not a big fan of using the space for "lessons" as was proposed at one time. I'm not in favor of one tenant with a long-term rental. The community has diverse interests and the offerings at ETH should reflect that.
political activities, Town-wide celebrations, entertainment open to Town

Family entertainment, plays, concerts, speakers

More concerts and theater

Live music, theater, author events, films

Meetings

I would love to see concerts there. Plays too. Also maybe Farmer's Market could be there in winter.

Plays

Local public gatherings, panel discussions. With enforcement of civility.

Movies, concerts

Local theater and dance

Deliberative Session, political gatherings, art shows, voting should come back to the Town Hall

Art Shows, Theater Productions, Concerts

Theatre

Concerts, social gatherings theater, speakers from all walks of life to include slides/video, Select Board meetings if it is felt there will be large town participation, have a talent night for comedians/singers/anything.

music, theater, lectures, readings

Concerts, theater groups performances, town public proposal meetings

Art shows, classical music concerts, art movies (that are not available elsewhere)

Music, comedians

Music and readings

Music and plays

Plays and musical events

Live concerts from mid range bands to national performers. Prescott park/word barn type shows to help foster a music scene in town.

Plays, history lectures, a variety of musical performances for all ages, no cost or low cost. I miss the local amateur artists shows upstairs.

Would like to see more visual arts events at the Town Hall.

More art shows and classes

Festival of Trees, plays, concerts (classical and other types).

More theater and music

Speakers, movies, plays, music, candidates, parties, fairs, art shows

Small community performances of music and theater, guest speakers and book talks.

Art, music, cultural events

Concerts, plays, dances, movies, lectures, antique shows

Craft fairs, winter farmers markets, movie nights,

Children's plays would be fun! I liked the days when Swag on Swasey was there too

Speakers, Authors, Rent for weddings/events, dances

Theater productions- music

View live events on screen and broadcast events particularly concerts and plays

Music, plays

None

Gallery shows / music / community theater

Activities that grow out seniors programs

Live music, plays, community meetings

Music, theater, author readings, lectures, an annual supper or pie-potluck (after pandemic concerns).

Immersive live theater. Extend events to outdoors with beer garden, other events in parking lot, continue to close off traffic on town hall side of gazebo during outdoor shows.

I love the art shows. I would love to see more community building events there.

Plays/concerts/performances

town office services - ex. registration Use High School gym for town meetings, school board meetings....etc.

Play; Frederick Douglass speech reading

Musical performances and stage plays.

More music or performing arts

Theater- music

Theatre, performing

Holiday craft fairs, and lectures featuring writers, artists, garden designers, photographers and other guest speakers from the arts field(s), naturalists, and more.

entertainment

Live production Theater. Holiday parties for children (Exeter residents only), continue with festival of trees, children's Chamber fund fundraisers

music

A nice variety of cultural, political, entertainment, and educational events.

What other improvements to the Town Hall would you like to see?

One large issue is with the lack of a public restroom inside the main part of the town hall. People have to go up into the gallery which is often closed. There should perhaps be something done to put a bathroom behind the stage with some sort of hallway from the main hall back there to the bathroom. I think it's also important that whatever AV system goes into the town hall be self-service. People should be able to come in and with a few buttons on a wall, turn on the PA system, some microphones, the projector, etc. If this is not done, town staff would need to be hired to operate equipment, increasing the cost for renting the space for local groups. Potentially with a redesign there could be a new paint job for the main hall. Give it a new look and purpose, ditch the green color and go with something that keeps the historic character but makes it more modern and welcoming. If the Hall will get more use, it's almost important to make sure the town properly funds the cleaning and maintenance of the building.

A general renovation without losing the historical character would be wonderful.

Accessibility, acoustic noise reduction

Once the investment in the facility is made, lots of promotion.

Any improvement should maintain the architectural integrity but the space should be modernized to maximize the use of the facility.

Whatever needs to be done to keep the building safe and comfortable for community use
better hours

Advertising/communications of events online

A budget made to keep continuing needs of improvement viable.
not

Could there be a small museum type corner about the building's history and events/visitors

More public bathrooms would be very nice!

Pollinator garden in place of the dirt patches in the back.

Concessions area

Safer stairs to the green room. Comfortable seating

More access, no charge for town events or groups like SAA or Seacoast open studio

Accessibility should be assessed and improved where needed

Jazz up the foyer

Some sort of adjustable mood lighting, so when there are events, it's not just lights on or lights off

Access to the bathrooms from the inside. Improved window treatments specifically on the first floor.

Better signage for events that are taking place inside the building.

Keep maintenance a top priority

Comfortable chairs. The wooden ones are very uncomfortable!

Downstairs bathroom

Not too many. I like the old-time feel of it.

None

Padded seats.

First, it needs to be decided what exactly the venue is primarily going to be used for. Once that is established, it will be easier to determine the appropriate improvements.

Parking

Improved General Upkeep, better cleaning procedures.

Access to bathrooms without exiting the building
put bathrooms on FIRST floor

A restroom would be lovely. Having to go outside to get into the restrooms is really awful, and almost impossible for anyone with difficulty walking.
elevator to top floor instead of all those stairs, plenty of people can not handle stairs or a ramp for disabled people.

More access. Circulating exhibits upstairs. Modernize mezzanine

Keep the charm, let the own Hall be accessible to all, not a TEAM monopoly

Better publicity for the art shows upstairs. I miss the painting classes that used to be offered there. I took many of them.

Bathroom accessibility inside the building on the main floor!

Weatherization, energy efficiency

Bathroom facilities. Access improvements - ramp, elevator

Ventilation with COVID-19 safety in mind would be nice

Love town hall! Our town is so lucky to have it!

Thoughtful improvements that bridge the historic nature of the building with the modern age e.g. Internet capabilities. The Internet is the modern town hall.

Improved maintenance of the inside such as painting

Traffic pattern changed ...Front street being routed as 2 way street - instead of around the bandstand – restore a lawn in front Of the town hall.

N/a

ask folks who see how the 'traffic of people' enters and exits smoothly.

Cosmetic improvements

Definitely an extra- not super important, more like a wishlist! Exterior property could feature more plantings, benches to sit on, etc, to make it more inviting, and to counteract the very busy traffic round the bandstand across the street.

make the 2nd floor accessible for events

The building just needs a refresh in general, the main assembly room in particular.

If you answered yes to question 3, what was your experience like? If you answered no, why not?

I used to as a kid years ago and I liked that it had both a balcony and the downstairs. I loved and miss voting at the town hall. I love the historical character.

It was great!

Good. Enjoy art upstairs,

Positive. I've been to several art shows and the lit fest.

Charming but not particularly comfortable

Hard to know what they are; not a lot of community buzz. The only thing I've seen is the Christmas trees.

good in a retro kind of way

All experiences wonderful!

They were enjoyable.

new to town

I'm the Artistic Director of The Pine Street Players at Christ Church, and we have utilized Town Hall for performances in the past. It's a very nice space in which to perform, but tech upgrades (as listed above) would make it so much more feasible as a performance space!

Good

In general, it has always been great visiting, but I will say, the heat in the summer and the uncomfortable seating was not great. Also lack of many bathrooms at bigger events was not the best.

But it is a beautiful space and I generally enjoy my time there. It is the heart of Exeter, so showing it some love and using it more would be wonderful.

It was an enjoyable experience, but the seats were uncomfortable

Very positive - it's a lovely theatrical venue

good

Very good

Loved my experiences

My experience was excellent :)

Good, but hard to see if you are not in the front rows.

Love the intimacy of the smaller venue. Chairs could be more comfortable. Sound system and/or acoustics could be better.

Facilities are ok. Seating could, be improved

We love the setting but the needed upgrades would make the experience more comfortable.

Love the atmosphere, wooden chairs are pretty uncomfortable

very positive

Good, friendly, fun

The space is wonderful and the character should be maintained. But improvements in technology would allow this space to be more fully utilized by town government, residents and outside groups alike.

Meetings and charettes for town projects, they were fine

I love the historic feeling of the space -- don't change that!

Enjoyable but the experience would have been better with new seating and improved production capabilities.

I love going to events at town hall! It feels so historic and community-centric

it was fine, i was performing there. unfortunately there was no green room, and the lighting and sound were sub par

I've attended and organized many events at ETH; seating and HVAC are the biggest issues but not having access to a restroom from the inside is also a major issue especially during the winter months and for individuals with mobility issues.

Good overall, no complaints...the character of the town hall is important to keep

O.K. but the above improvements would make it more enjoyable.

I don't use town hall very often, unfortunately. I have been to the school art show a few times and once in 2016 to hear Bill Clinton while he was campaigning for Hillary Clinton. We wound up in standing room only upstairs so I don't even know what the seating conditions are downstairs 😊. It is a lovely and useful space though.

I have enjoyed speakers, fiddlers, and plays there. But the hard wooden seats make it difficult to enjoy a long performance.

Positive experience and good for the community, but the venue needs work.

The chairs were uncomfortable, and it was difficult to see and hear some of the performers.

Seats are uncomfortable, sound system makes it difficult to hear

Seating was awful

I've seen political candidates there. It was great to be so close up, really felt involved.

Good, it just needs to be updated

Fine

I like the plainness of it; it says 'Here we gather to talk things through.' But the chairs are probably alienating for many people.

Sound system is horrendous. Can't be inside without earplugs

I have been to many different types of events at the Town Hall. The Deliberative Sessions that used to be held there were far more community friendly than the ones held currently at the High School. Voting should also be done at the Town Hall. I have attended art shows and the Festival of Trees. I would agree that more comfortable seating should be considered if Deliberative Session goes back there. The folding chairs were the weak link in that venue.

Did not know events were held there. I've only live in town from one year

Depends on the production and the level of effort put forward by the people involved. Some events were good, others were just okay or poorly managed. The biggest letdown is how hot and uncomfortable the building gets and how uncomfortable the seating is for longer productions.

Nice to have local - but should be funded by organizations using the space

Great! Access to bathrooms without exiting the building would be particularly great for winter months. seats so unyielding I had to leave...very uncomfortable. No rest rooms on first floor.

The space is great. The sound system, not so much. The seating is passable.

Yes, many, many years ago. Experience excellent.

It was adequate. Seating was rather uncomfortable. Ventilation OK.

It was ok but the seats were not very comfortable

Good but the sound quality was not great

Fun but not very comfortable

too much crowding for tree festival and uncomfortable folding chairs for other events

Crowded and not a very good flow. Getting upstairs is difficult. Utilize windows more.

Loved the sense of community for the amateur art shows

Making arts available for all, for a variety of art organizations

I enjoyed participating in the arts exhibits in the past as well as the annual Christmas Tree fund raising event and well known author presentations.

I have seen several political candidates here and it was a great place for that. Better seating would be great. The upstairs is a wonderful space for art exhibits but I think most people still don't know about it.

Love the historical feel. Seating, bathroom and acoustics are needed improvements.

Love the convenience of having options right downtown, but the property needs improvements.

It's been very hot when filled up. The old church seats are charming, but not very comfortable.

It was very enjoyable- I've been to a holiday concert and a literary event. Both were fun.

It was ok - not fabulous but serviceable

Seats are not comfortable and sound systems needs upgrade.

It's fun to go in and walk around, like at the festival of trees, but sitting for an event is uncomfortable and it can be hard to hear

We've been to the school art show and the Christmas tree contest. Both were lovely.

Loved seeing plays- speakers- music - FOT

It was a good experience because of the content. It was hot temperature wise.

Good experiences all around

Presidential event- it was great

Ok

Down stairs - Chairs uncomfortable / upstairs gallery space very good

First Reading of one of the Harry Potter books was a spectacular night. Festival of trees is always superb.

I love the feeling of being in a building that has been around for so long.

Great! Seats are not comfortable, but the town hall is a gorgeous building and a wonderful way to experience being part of our community.

I had a good experience because of the topic, but I feel like the town hall could be a great event location. It needs a lot of sprucing up.

My husband and I have attended several events there and they were fun and provided a nice sense of community. Would like to see more (although I know it's currently more difficult due to covid). Need for more people (working and attending) to have clear voice mikes and all can be seen. Only residents of our town or required or invited speakers on town-centered 'business'.

Chairs were uncomfortable and needs air-conditioning.

It was good, lots of room to move around.

Fabulous- love our town hall

Political rally: no place to sit

Not enough seats, uncomfortable

Because we just moved here 4/28, and there is still a pandemic.
positive. Just wish the seating was better

Pleasant

It was good, but found out word of mouth. Lack of advertising was an issue

I lived downtown until a couple years ago and attended several events at the Town Hall. At the UFO Festival, I recall the seating was inadequate.

Any other comments?

Please don't lose the historical character of it and turn it into more condos or modernist designs.

I would live to see this building become a town hall center again. I grew up here and remember so many wonderful activities and experiences.

Kudos to your committee for making this happen!

Our Town Hall is a very important venue place for our community.

I both live and work in Exeter. That was not an option in the survey.

thank you for hosting such a beautiful town

We're very appreciative of the use of Town Hall and would love to assist in any way we can.

Glad there is an effort to maintain and use the building
Senior citizen need more
financial assistance mostly if lower middle income

Lots of old town charm there.

I love our Town Hall. I like it when things are going on there, it brings me downtown.

The Town Hall is the architectural center piece of the town, and for better or worse is "on the payroll" so we should invest what we need to in order to make maximum use of this asset that is quite literally the center of our community.

Think outside the box for rearranging space for performers and audience. Small acoustic performances could be great.

Thanks for asking. Keep the initiative moving

I'd love to see some modern updates like AC and improved lighting, but I also love the old feeling of it and hope there's a way to compromise between updates and maintaining the feeling. I always feel like

I'm part of town while I'm in there.

It's a beautiful building and venue but it needs a little bit of love. The shades in the main area are in desperate need of replacement and from the outside give the impression that we don't care about this gem as much as we should.

any improvements must take into consideration the historical nature of the Hall

I have worked at craft fairs in the summer and the ceiling fans do not cool the hall enough. Air conditioning would be advantageous for warmer weather activities in the hall.

The Town Hall is the center of town and should be utilized as I have already stated for all sorts of political and town-centric activities. It would be great to see it truly utilized for public meetings, and gatherings of that type. Some level of theater production might be considered, but that should not be the primary focus.

At it's current state, the Town Hall is not worth the amount of money that is being charged to rent the space.

The balcony is a plus.

I would like to see more activities in the town hall, both active live events and gallery events

Lets not try and recreate the portsmouth music hall but we can do better in comfort and keep the price affordable for all incomes and families.

Improvements should be paid via grants.

The stairway leading down to the bottom level from the second level

Some interior cosmetic improvements would be nice, too

Don't know if there is room, but it would be nice if a small portion of the space could be converted into a broadcast studio where community members could sign-up to record content ranging from Tik-toks, liver stream videos and video podcasts. You don't want to lose the history of the building, but if you give it modern capabilities, you will bring it new life with more people, especially young people using it.

Arts Committee needs to stay out of this

First. This survey should only be open to Exeter residents. We are the ones shouldering the tax burden. Next. Exeter residents already have had SIGNIFICANT added tax burden due to schools tax rate, library renovation, and large increases in the sewer rate. Many of us have had to postpone NEEDFUL things due to the increased tax burden. Enough is enough. If people want to spend money on luxuries, raise private funds.

A working kitchen space would helpful.

Check our OPC (Older Persons Commission) in Rochester Hills MI for best in class use of community buildings including as a pop-up market for local retailers or craftsman.

Please amend Master Plan to incorporate arts & culture commission's mission and goals.

N/a

Thank you for soliciting ideas! We love this town, and came here to retire. It is such a beautiful town, with a clear appreciation of Exeter's rich history!

thank you for supporting the Festival of Trees

Good luck with the project! Look to the lovely renovations at the Exeter Pubic Library and The Music Hall for inspiration!