

**Minutes
Town of Skowhegan
Opera House Committee Meeting
3:00 P.M.
Tuesday, August 16, 2022
Municipal Building – Council Room**

Committee Members:

Cara Mason, Chairman
Lyn Govoni
Jeff Hewett
Jon Kimbell
Todd Smith

Absent:

Fred Liebfried

Recording Secretary:

Renee Belliveau

Call Meeting to order.

Cara Mason called the meeting to order at 2:59 pm.

1. Approve Minutes from the July 19, 2022 meeting.

A motion from Jeff Hewett, second by Todd Smith to approve the minutes from the July 19, 2022 meeting. V- 4/0, motion carried.

Lynn Govoni entered the meeting at 3:01 pm.

2. Discussion regarding the Skowhegan Opera House logo.

Jeff Hewett said at the last meeting, that was the first time seeing the logo. The only issues he had was that he was worried about how it would look printed or copied in black and white.

Jon Kimbell said that is why he suggested only using the lettering. For us to say no to this logo and have nothing at all would be foolish. We might as well use this one. Logos are expensive. He recommends that we approve this, using the lettering for some things and the entire logo for other things. He doesn't think the SOH should ever be used by itself because people wouldn't know what it is or what it stands for. Jon Kimbell asked if the Opera House committee had anything to say about what the Friends of the Opera House use for a logo? Cara Mason and Lyn Govoni said no, they are separate and can use whatever they want to.

Todd Smith asked who came up with the logo. Cara Mason said it was Neil at Bromar. Lyn Govoni said this was on a sponsor sheet for the WXNZ concert that took place in April. The windows really draw you in.

A motion by Jeff Hewett, second by Todd Smith to use either its entirety or pieces of the presented logo, however deemed fitting. V- 5/0, motion carried.

3. Update & discussion regarding the Opera House lighting.

Cara Mason said she spoke to Steve Govoni for the structural inspection of the grid. He will stick with the quote of \$7500.00. She also spoke with Quinton at Port Lighting. In addition to the structural inspection, the rigging inspection must be done as well. The amount is between \$2500 - \$3000. He would need to coordinate with Steve Govoni to be done at the same time.

The installation of the lighting itself has increased about 30% from the last time we got quoted.

Jeff Hewett asked if we should make recommendation that we do the inspections and the installation of the lighting all in one, subject to the funds coming in from taxes. Cara Mason said that it's cleaner to do it this way, that way if we run into problems with the inspections, we have funds to take care of those issues.

Jon Kimbell asked if its possible that the issues we have with inspections, would it be the town that's responsible to maintain the building. Cara Mason said that the funds are town funds.

4. Discussion and decision to recommend to the Selectmen to expend up to \$7,500.00 for the structural inspection of the grid in the Opera House.

A motion by Todd Smith, second by Jeff Hewett to recommend to Selectmen to expend up to \$7500.00 for structural inspection of the grid. V- 5/0, motion carried.

4. Discussion and decision to recommend to the Selectmen to expend an amount, not to exceed, \$3,000.00 for the rigging inspection of the Opera House.

A motion by Todd Smith, second by Jeff Hewett to recommend to Selectmen to expend amount, not to exceed, \$3000.00 for the rigging inspection. V- 5/0, motion carried.

5. Update from FSOH regarding funding and fundraisers. 3

Lyn Govoni said they have been really active. They have had regular monthly meetings and also some production meetings around Shirley Valentine which will take place on September 24th. They now have a stage manager, Kate Hunter, who has organized a lot for production and other various tasks. She was also able to get a lighting board operator. There is a lot of fundraising happening at the moment. A new clue box has been moved throughout town to make donations. A sponsor sheet has also been created; top donations are able to get a wine and dine at Unwined featuring

a Greek meal and a glass of wine. Tickets will go on sale the 22nd online and they will have tickets available at the Farmer's market.

Todd Smith said that he was approached after the last meeting about the process of the Friends of the Opera House fundraising for the Town and the Opera House. It was explained to him that The Friends produce or host plays in effort to turn funding to Town to restore Opera House. It seemed counter-productive if the Town is charging the Friends. Lyn Govoni said everyone who uses the space must have a rental agreement and there are fees associated with that. All monies are turned back around to the Town so it makes sense to her. Cara Mason said they have had shows in the past that did not make any money but they still needed to pay for the Opera House. The fees pay for utilities used in the Opera House.

Cara Mason said there are shows scheduled in the fall. A Fleetwood Mac tribute band in October and Tom Cole will be doing his Elvis production in October as well. Lyn Govoni said that WXNZ would like to do another concert also.

Adjourn Meeting.

Cara Mason adjourned the meeting at 3:38 pm.