

Camden Opera House Meeting
April 11, 2011

Minutes of Meeting

Meeting called to order at 5:03 by Chairman, Don White

Attendees: Kate Bates, Dave Morrison, Robert Williams, Kerry Hadley, Don White

Don White announced that he will be running for Camden Select Board.

As we did not have the March minutes it was decided to accept them at the next meeting.

The group voiced its thanks to Kate Bates for successfully defending our Opera House budget and the increase in the Manager's hours at the recent Budget Committee Meeting. KH remarked that the meeting was useful for learning more about people's perception of the COH and its priorities. RW wondered if the Budget Committee reflects the community at large.

It was agreed that the recent Business After Hours that was held at the COH was a success. KH mentioned that she received several inquiries for events, including a meeting, wedding, and a film festival.

Susan Dorr who was away in Florida continues to investigate historic film footage. DW and KH updated the Town Report COH report.

KH asked for volunteers to staff an information table at the polling place on June 14, 2011.

Two films that will be shown at the COH soon were discussed; Last Train Home, a collaboration with CIFF and Camden Conference, and Race To Nowhere. We discussed Last Train Home and the Skype Q&A, the income potential for Race To Nowhere (KH thinks it could generate \$1500.00, and says that sponsors would make it more viable), and DW suggested that the COH keep a database of income figures. A discussion of various ways outreach to schools and possible follow-up discussion about Race To Nowhere could be facilitated ensued. RW agreed to meet with KH the next day to discuss how best to promote Race to the school system due to his background.

KB suggested being wary of fragmenting staff time on break-even events, and we discussed ways we could increase income. DW asked what if there were a number of 'give back' programs each year to heighten the public's awareness of what the opera house offers. He reiterated how important it is to show what the COH provides the community, and back it up with facts and figures. KB suggested that the people of Camden would appreciate the COH making more income and moving towards being financially self-supporting. KH reiterated the importance of sponsors, and the particular challenges of being a town-owned facility.

KH described an exciting new initiative to get well-known authors to lecture at the COH, and explained that the best and cheapest way to arrange this is to do a 'routing' (hire authors who are performing at venues in New England and possible travelling past) as we do with bands.

We discussed the retirement of Arthur Crockett (COH custodian) and decided that we wanted to have an event to honor him on Wednesday June 29 on the 3rd floor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted, Dave Morrison