

**Present:** Kate Bates, Kerry Hadley (Director), Beth O'Connor, Renee Hutcheon, Marc Ratner (Chair), Don White (Select Board Liaison)

**Next Meeting:** April 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

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Kate Bates called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

The minutes of the February 2015 meeting were approved as presented.

**Ongoing 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Activities Report:** Renee reported on the urns that the Camden Garden Club will fill with plants. She has one set, but plans to return them and pick up a different pair instead. Chris Glass and Kerry are scheduled to give a talk on the history and architecture of the Opera House at the Camden Public Library next week. She also discussed framing a plaque in honor of Barbara Dyer, Camden's historian, as well as a list of auditorium seat sponsors.

**Budget Committee Update:** Kate and Kerry discussed this year's request to the Town of Camden. Kerry distributed the budget narrative and a 1-page handout showing some pertinent statistics about the past year. The amount requested is basically flat except for an additional \$7,500 to fund more part-time help. Extra labor is needed because the Opera House has changed from being primarily a rental venue to a producing venue. In the past, the Opera House has produced 7-9 shows a year. This past year COH produced 34. This has left the Opera House undermanned as it tries to do much more. A more realistic budget would include an additional \$23,000 to fund 25 extra hours a week in box office, marketing and administrative support. The Town Manager reduced that figure to \$12,500. Suzanne suggested creating a 1-pager for the Budget Committee to explain how the extra funds would be used. This would allow different functions to be teased out and supported.

**Website, Logo & Social Media:** Kerry reported on the progress Thierry Bonneville has made on the Opera House website. By the time of the April meeting, Kerry will have met with Anneli Skaar who has agreed to design the Opera House logo. Kerry has hired Daniel Richman to do a 2-week social media trial, including Facebook posts. Marc offered to follow up with Daniel about priorities.

**Other events:** *Mary Poppins* is 3 p.m. this Sunday. CIFF Selects is hosting a documentary next Wednesday called *Wild Home*. It is the story of a Vietnam Veteran who has created a home for endangered animals. We discussed the feasibility of having the subject of the film bring a tiger cub to the Opera House and voted unanimously not to allow non-domestic animals on stage at the Opera House.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kate Bates