

**Camden Opera House Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**May 9, 2011**

In attendance: Don White, Kerry Hadley, Deb Dodge, Bob Williams, Kate Bates, Susan Dorr

Meeting was called to order at 5:05

Minutes from April meeting were presented and approved.

Discussion of committee composition: Jon Orlando has left the committee and Don White is running for the Camden Select Board, Deb Dodge is not seeking re-election to her position on the Select Board so will no longer be liaison to the COHC. If Don is not elected he will continue on the COHC, if he is elected he will express interest in liaising with COHC. Kate and Bob will re-up as alternate members or one of them will move into a regular member position. We discussed extending an invitation to Hal Owens to be an honorary member. We will also be seeking 2 names to put into consideration as new members. We'll be asking some people if they are interested.

Discussion of opportunities for committee members to volunteer at COH events. Race to Nowhere on Wednesday night. Kerry also expressed interest in having a table at the polls on June 14 to raise awareness of COH events coming up.

Dave's Report (submitted by Kerry) Dave reported that the COH has hired Brandon Koons to go over the lighting system to bring it up to optimal conditions. We have had several events that have made use of growing technical capabilities - following a film event in April there was a live Skype Q&A with the film maker and in May COH supported the Bay Chamber Concert which had dance, live music and film. Also, Evergreen Hope Performance will conduct a pressure test on the COH to measure the climate infiltration of the building.

Old film project: Susan reported that the meeting scheduled for this afternoon had been cancelled by the other people involved from the Camden Rockport Historical Society. Two of them were planning to review the films that we have been given by the NE Historic Film Archive. There are some interesting pieces of film. The challenge in creating a good program will be the curating, editing the film and adding still photos (from the Penobscot Marine Museum or the Camden History Center at the library ) along with interpretation from some community members. Also, the Camden Lions Club is hosting a similar event at the library this week. Susan will be in touch with the CRHS folks to see where this project is headed. There is support on the COH committee to go forward. September 18 is the tentative date.

Kerry reported that Kinectic Energy Alive, a local dance company who has booked the Opera House, **has expressed** an interest in having dancers coming off of the loge boxes on fabric swings. Bill Kelly would require that there be liability releases from everyone involved but since many of the dancers are children they can't sign releases. General feeling among COH committee and town administration is that the COH wasn't built to support those types of acrobatic activities.

The Camden Shakespeare Co. recently advised Kerry that they would be taking over production of Rockport Dance Conservatory's spring show, and therefore asked for a nonprofit rate. (RDC is currently a for profit company and so pays that rate.) Rate and policy discussion ensued with a review of the language in the COH rental policy regarding non-profit rates. Kate made language suggestions in the policy and will send it to Kerry for revision and then send it to all committee members for a vote at our next meeting. In the meantime Kerry will negotiate with the RDC and CSC.

New Business: COH has accepted an unpaid intern from the NE School of Communication at Husson for 10 hours a week, capped at a total of 135 hours. Molly will be working with Kerry on administrative work and Dave on stage production work in the COH over the summer.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM