

Thomaston Opera House Commission
Strategic Planning/Bylaws Subcommittee Meeting
January 20, 2010
Town Hall (Selectmen's conference room)
6:00 PM .

Attendees: Marie Galbraith, Commissioner; Barbara Piscopo, Commissioner; Becky Skinner, Commissioner; Roy Bouffard, Regional Board; Dick DiMaria, Regional Board, Jane Kendrick, Regional Board, John Scheppard, Selectman.

The Committee met to discuss plans for addressing Board of Selectmen's decision to separate theatre operations from the Town by end of 2010. They reviewed copies of letters from Town Attorney Rybak to the First Selectman concerning the Bylaws, legal relationship between the Selectmen, Board of Finance, and the Opera House Commission, and Restrictive Covenants. Barbara provided copies of an agreement between the City of Stamford and a Theatre Management company.

The Committee discussed options:

1. Commission contract with an existing outside organization to run the theatre (Commission would solicit proposals).
2. Work with interested parties who would create a nonprofit corporation, which would then contract with the Commission
3. Propose to Selectmen why it might be preferable not to separate. (still could create NPO for fundraising purposes.

General discussion of the many issues to be looked into and questions to be answered before making recommendation to full Commission, including:

Are any limitations imposed by Town Ordinance and Bylaws?

Are any limitations imposed by any grants that have been received?

Can a newly created nonprofit use the existing tax number?

Need to clearly define role of any organization contracted with, especially with regard to the building itself.

Control of Commission over programming.

Assets of town versus assets of organization.

What happens to the debt?

Who would be the principals in Option 2?

Next meeting, January 27: Subcommittee members are to review materials including Rybak letters and agreement between City of Stamford and Ethel Kveskin Theater Management agreement.

Subcommittee members are to bring list of questions for legal consultation.

Respectfully submitted

Becky Skinner