



2020 ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, September 24, 2020
10:00-11:00am via Zoom

MINUTES

APPROVED October 8, 2020
Friends Board of Directors

Attendees:

Charlotte Hanna Bassage, Scott Bassage, Carol Beatty, Tina Bielenberg, Rodney Buck, Sandy Buck, Barbara Butler, Reed Cherington, Chris Colt, Nel Emlen, Nick Emlen, Clif Emmons, Jane English, Hasso Ewing, Donna Fitch, Linda Gray, Mary Hanrahan, Craig Line, Dorothy Naylor, Ron Padgett, Rose Pelchuck, David Schütz, Artie Toulis, Nancy Toulis, Susan Weber, Denise Wheeler, Ann Wheelock, ORCA (recording).

Topic	Presenter	Discussion	Task / Action / Motion / Vote Recommendation or Action Plan
Call To Order	10:02 am		
Welcome and Opening Remarks	Scott Bassage	We are entering Phase III of the Calais Town Hall renovation. Phase I started 7.5 years ago at the 2013 Town Meeting, when voters approved an expenditure to replace the TH roof. From 2013-2018, David Schütz, Donna Fitch and others led a 5 year education campaign that included engineering studies, community engagement, and securing architect John McCullough. At the 2018 Town Meeting, voters unanimously approved \$200,000 funding toward a projected \$400,000 restoration. Later that year, we received an anonymous \$200,000 donation which ensured the completion of Phase II, the actual renovation work that provides the downstairs to be used as a Municipal Center and special events rentals. Phase III will complete furnishing the upstairs as a theater and cultural arts center.	
Purpose and Mission of Friends	David Schütz	Friends is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization primarily responsible for raising funds to complete furnishing the upstairs to be used as a theater and performing/cultural arts center, which will require lighting, sound, seating, and more. Everyone is welcome, and we hope to have an actively engaged group of Friends members.	
Role of Friends vs. Role of Selectboard	Clif Emmons	The Town owns the Town Hall and the Selectboard is responsible for its maintenance and upkeep. Once the TH is open for public use again, it is first and foremost to be used as the Town's municipal center for meetings and other Town business. Other cultural, theatrical, social and public use will be scheduled around Town business, and Friends' fundraising will help augment those activities.	

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Nomination and Election of Board Members	Clif Emmons	<p>Per Friends' Bylaws, Board members serve for a two-year term. This first Annual Meeting will be a one-time exception for half of our currently serving Board members to be elected for a one-year term creating staggered term end dates, to avoid all Board members' terms to be ending in the same year.</p> <p><u>Current Board members running for a one-year term are:</u> Scott Bassage, Barbara Butler, David Schütz, Artie Toulis</p> <p><u>Current Board members running for a two-year term are:</u> Chris Colt, Clif Emmons, Nancy Toulis</p> <p>Clif opened the floor to other nominations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Denise Wheeler moved to nominate Scott, Barbara, David and Artie as a slate. ➤ Donna Fitch seconded. ➤ Scott Bassage, Barbara Butler, David Schütz and Artie Toulis were elected for a one-year term, ending September 2021. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Denise Wheeler moved to nominate Chris, Clif and Nancy as a slate. ➤ Jane English seconded. ➤ Chris Colt, Clif Emmons and Nancy Toulis were elected for a two-year term, ending September 2022. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Donna Fitch nominated Carol Beatty for a two-year term. ➤ Linda Gray seconded. ➤ Carol accepted the nomination. ➤ Carol Beatty was elected for a two-year term, ending September 2022.
Virtual Tour Video	Artie Toulis	<p>A high quality version will be posted to the Calais website later today.</p> <p>https://www.calaisvermont.gov/index.asp?SEC=4067FB6D-64B6-4AE2-A293-5DE403912A19&Type=B_BASIC</p>	
Gospel Hollow Players	Artie Toulis	<p>Formerly the 'Blue Barn Players', the newly named 'Gospel Hollow Players' plan to present at least two theatrical performances each summer, and many musical events throughout the years ahead, post-Covid.</p>	
Short Term Plans	Scott Bassage	<p>We will be developing a wish list for technical equipment and furnishings, and the budget required to acquire these items. Fundraising via grants and donor solicitation will be focused on outfitting the upstairs with professional theater technical equipment (lighting, sound, etc), comfortable seating, etc.</p>	

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Long Term Plans	Artie Toulis	Post-Covid, the Town Hall will be available to rent (both upstairs and downstairs) for weddings, birthdays, wakes, family reunions and other special events. A rental agreement with specific guidelines for use and rental fees is currently being finalized, which will include a discounted rate for Calais residents. Third party rentals will allow the Hall to be a money generator for the Town.	
Questions and Answers	Clif Emmons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Do the windows open?</u> Yes. ➤ <u>Will the TH be hosting visual arts?</u> Yes. With beautiful large windows, there is limited wall space. But we will figure out a hanging system to allow for rotating art shows. ➤ <u>Will the TH be open for Fall Foliage Festival, Oct. 2-4?</u> If the Selectboard approves this, we'd love to have the TH open for short tours. One way in, one way out. Masks and social distancing required. Jamie Moorby will need to know today to include it in the iconic Gold Flier. ➤ <u>How does one join Friends?</u> Membership is free. Express interest to any Friends Board Member, any Selectboard member, go to our FB page, call the Town Office, or send an email to FriendsoftheCalaisTownHall@gmail.com ➤ <u>Do Friends members have voting rights?</u> Yes. At every Annual Meeting, members will vote to elect Board Members. There might be initiatives or special projects from time to time where the Board will come to the Friends membership for voting. ➤ <u>Can anyone attend Friends Board meetings?</u> Yes. ➤ <u>How does the Friends Board and the Selectboard work collaboratively? Shouldn't there be a SB member on the Friends Board?</u> Clif Emmons serves on both Boards and, as such, is the appointed liaison between both bodies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Denise Wheeler will contact Jamie Moorby today to discuss, and will put this on the Selectboard agenda for Mon. Sept. 28 review/approval
Closing Remarks	David Schütz	The Town Hall belongs to everyone in Calais, and money is not an obstacle to being involved. Like any old building, the Town Hall will need long term maintenance and refurbishing activities from time to time. But now, after this multi-year restoration, decades-long deferred maintenance has at long last been addressed. Starting with a solid building, we now have a plan for going forward. Most important of all, we have a magnificent edifice that is prepared for use like never before. We are confident that somewhere in 2021, the doors will be flung open for a Grand ReOpening, and for events for years to come.	
Adjournment	11:06 am		