

Pittsfield Players' 2011 Annual Meeting

June 12, 2011

Minutes

The meeting was held at the home of Maye and Jim Hart, 67 Sleepy Hollow Lane, Epsom, NH.

President John Charron called to meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked Maye and Jim for having the meeting at their home. John then talked about the past year and said that the Players' did an outstanding job, except for the Christmas Show, because we couldn't find a director, but he said we would work on that for this coming year. He said we had a great show with Hello Dolly, Lie Cheat and Genuflect and Maye's Show, Space Pirates. He said that this is the first year that we took a chance with the Ann White Northwood Theater Workshop as a renter, and their show This Here City was good. They have one more show coming up in August, which is the Odd Couple, male version, and then we start working on Man of LaMancha. John said that we've brought in a lot of new talent, people who have gone from musicals to comedy and new faces who have never been on the stage before. He then turned the floor over to Doris George, Treasurer for her Report.

Doris gave a summary report and said that the detailed report would be in the July issue of Curtain Up! She reported that we started out with a balance of \$1284.00 and our total income from June of last year to May of this year was \$30,829.00, including some substantial donations from Globe, Pleasant View Gardens and Indian Meadow Farm. Those donations were specific to projects that we are undertaking so they have been transferred into the savings account, called the grant fund, until we need the money. Total expenses were \$27,563.00. The ending balance at the end of May was \$4,550.00. She reported that the grant fund started out last April with \$3,030.00 and now has \$8,682.00 in it. She said that the finances looked good. John Charron asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, and Bea Pzsonowsky made that motion, Ernie Bass seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

John Charron then opened a discussion about AWNTW and our relationship with them. He stated that there has been a discussion about merging the two theater groups, but at this time, the feeling is that we're not ready to merge, but that we're talking about adding two non-voting positions on the Board for AWNTW representatives. He said that none of us were sure where this relationship with AWNTW was going to go, but he said that the positions would make them feel more comfortable about an eventual merger, and help them get a feeling of how we operate. He said that right now we have a rental relationship with AWNTW, where we get 30% of what they make on their shows, but that rental will be up in August and we'll be looking at whether we need to tweek that agreement or not, but a merger is not probably going to happen at that time.

A discussion ensued regarding adding two more positions on the Board. Bea Pzsonowsky stated a clarification of the subject that we were going to create two more seats on the Board for members of the AWNTW group so that they could sit in on our Board meetings and hear how the Board meetings are run and be part of the discussion, but that they would not have a voting position until there was a merger. Jean Gentile stated that all meetings are open to any member who wants to come to them, so why would we need two more seats, when anyone could come to a meeting and be part of the discussion and get a feel for how the Board works. John Charron stated that we were looking at adding two members of the AWNTW Board, rather than just a member of their group. Because if they are to remain renters, it's important for the two groups to have formal discussions about which plays are going to be put up, so that it's not just about members, it's specific to Board issues. Jen Kearns asked if there would be two positions opened on the AWNTW Board for two of our Board members to attend their meetings. Kate Mara stated that the AWNTW has some great talent that can be beneficial to the Players and that we need to open up that communication with them by adding the two new seats to the Board. Bea P. then stated that what we're trying to do is to keep the lines of communication with AWNTW open. Carole Neveax then said that this was like a marriage about to happen – are we going to get married or not – Northwood has a Board, and they'd like an opportunity to sit in on the Players meeting to see how we conduct the meetings, see if we're a compatible group, before we get married. Jan Pinard said that Carole and Geri Veraneau were already members of the Players, so what extra benefits would the Board seats provide. John Charron said that it would make the relationship more formal. Carole N. said that being on the Board would give AWNTW more of a piece of ownership of the building – that they'd be there to paint the building, raise funds, sell ads, etc. A further discussion of placing two Players on the AWNTW Board resulted in Carole N. stating that they have no problem placing two Players on their Board. Scott Aubertin then asked why the two new seats on the Players' Board couldn't be voting positions. Carole then said that she didn't think they should be voting members until such time as a merger has been agreed to. Dee Dee Pitcher asked about whether, if a merger did occur, would AWNTW just become the Pittsfield Players, or would there be a new organization. John Charron said that it would remain the Pittsfield Players. Dee Dee then asked that, if the merger did take place, would the extra seats be dissolved and then filled by a regular election. John Charron said that his interpretation was that this arrangement would last until August of 2012, and then, if a merger occurred, the issue would come back before the membership as to how the Board would be made up, because there were By-Law changes that would have to be made. Mal Cameron asked whether Ann White was just going to "go away" when the merger occurred and Carole N. said that the Players will have a picture or memorial to Ann White in the lobby in recognition of the fact that she contributed so much to the NTW, which would then be a part of the Pittsfield Players. Steve Aigner, from the set crew, asked that we have only one set building crew, and that we all work together. NTW members being on the Board ensures that will happen.

Kevin Mara then made a motion to give the AWNTW two additional non-voting seats on the Players Board. Scott Aubertin seconded. A bit of further discussion ensued. The motion passed with only Maye Hart abstaining.

Maye Hart then spoke about fundraising. AWNTW had just brought in \$150 in raffle donations from their show for the Sprinkler Fund. She talked about the donations from Globe, Pleasant View Gardens and Indian Meadow Farm as donations that came in just because we put it in the newsletter that we needed money for a specific thing. Pittsfield has always been very generous with their Players' requests. We got away from the Sprinkler system and the Senior Prom partially because of the economy, we may get back to the Senior Prom, but she had other ideas for raising funds, including a dinner theater at the Community Center and a pie sale right before Thanksgiving. She also talked about the program ad campaign. She asked for help from the membership to make these fundraisers a reality. John Charron then said that Maye has taken over the publicity committee, and thanked Mike Hobson for doing a great job with the posters and other tasks. He talked about how volunteerism is going to help us to succeed. Maye asked for ideas for shows for our program, because we haven't done a lot with planning this year for future shows. Scott Aubertin talked about how the Board can't do everything and that members need to show up at Board meeting to lend support to the Board and to be ready to volunteer for things that need to be done.

Kate Mara mentioned two cases where we need volunteers coming up soon – the Parade Float for Old Home Days and the Balloon Rally where we help out at the concessions stand. A discussion ensued on how to get the most volunteers for our projects. Jen Kearns said that she couldn't always help out on projects because of her schedule. Maye Hart suggested that members who had ideas of how they could help should let the Board know. Ernie Bass talked about the immortal words of Elsie Morse who said "Many hands make less work." He suggested that members should be more willing to take on directing jobs, and Kate Mara then said that even smaller jobs need to be filled as well. Dee Dee said she was looking for a volunteer to do the lights for the Encore Show at Steele Hill this summer. Maye added that this was an ideal job for a teenager who wanted to learn more about theater lighting, and that you could get community service points for doing it. Keith Belanger suggested email blasts when we need a specific job done.

Jean Gentile wanted to know if we really wanted members at the Board meeting. Maye said that the minutes of the Board meeting are on the website, and that meetings are always posted in the newsletter. All members are welcome at the meetings.

Maye then gave the nominees to the Board - Jon Martin, Carole Neveax, Bea Pzsonowsky and Kate Mara - and asked for any other nominations from the floor. There were none. We have two open positions at this time. Kevin Mara asked if

we had an email newsletter list, and Maye said she was working on it. Ballots were then passed out by Dee Dee and Maye. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded. The meeting then adjourned while the ballots were counted. After the ballots were counted, the new members elected were Jon Martin and Kate Mara.

Respectfully submitted,

Maye Hart, Secretary