

Board of Directors Meeting July 21, 2011 Minutes

Present at the meeting were John Charron, Jon Martin, Doris George, Maye Hart, Dee Dee Pitcher and Kate Mara. Geri Veroneau and Carole Neveax were present as non-voting members of the Board from NTW. Guests were Jen and Cassidy Kearns.

- John Charron called the meeting to order at 7 pm. He asked for any changes or additions to the agenda.
- Maye asked that we add the Children's Theater Workshop to the agenda under shows.
- Kate added that she had some building maintenance issues to add. Geri asked that she be able to speak about doing some more rehearsals at the Scenic and that was added under shows.
- Carole explained that every year after they do their show, the Epsom Town Library asks them to do a review for their reading program.
- Maye requested that the annual meeting voting issue be discussed before the Reorganization of the Board subject at the beginning of the meeting. That was done, and Maye said that she asked for that subject to be on the agenda because she was contesting the election on the grounds that we had a number of brand new memberships come in, in envelopes, nineteen votes to be exact, and that the difference that they made in the election was substantial, and they were all for Jon Martin and Kate Mara. Those votes came in envelopes, with cash in them. Maye stated that it was perfectly legal to have a membership drive, however, when you look at the By-Laws, when it talks about annual meetings, they say that "for purposes of voting at annual meetings, and at special membership meetings, each member of the Board and each person who holds an individual membership for the current year shall be allowed one vote and each family which holds a family membership for the current year shall be allowed two votes." Maye felt that the definition of "the current year" was the issue. She stated that most of the members, who came to the annual meeting, including the members of the Northwood Theater Workshop, had been members for over a year, if not more. Some of the votes in the envelopes, (for example Carol Harkness's vote), were legitimate because she had also been a member for over a year. Maye was not contesting those votes. She was only contesting the votes of the brand new members who were brought in at the final moment that skewed the election. Had those new memberships not been counted, the election would have gone to Jon Martin and Carole Neveax. Maye stated that if she was a member of the NTW, she'd be a little upset at the fact that our memberships can be skewed that way for an election, because they took the time to come

to the meeting to voice their opinion and cast their vote, and Maye felt that it was wrong and illegitimate based on our By-Laws.

Kate Mara said she found it strange that Maye was so concerned about Northwood when she had done nothing to welcome them. Maye said that was not true, and she stated that she did not want to get into an issue between Kate and herself, because she said she would contest the election if anyone on the Board had brought in that amount of votes to skew the election. Kate then said "Let's go back to last year, when you were elected, and as a matter of fact, we did have new members at that meeting that voted for you and I did not hear Maye contest those votes." Maye said that there was no issue last year at all. Dee Dee said that she hoped that this whole matter did not come from an underlying thing that had been going on. Kate then asked what underlying thing? Kate then felt she was being accused of something and said she found it interesting that we were so interested in morality when we have never posted an issue of theft in our minutes to our membership. John Charron then stated that the position of the Pittsfield Players Board since he's been on it was that if you paid your dues at the time of the annual meeting you were entitled to vote, and that you didn't have to be there. Maye agreed that you didn't have to be there if you were a current member. John restated that if you paid on the day of the annual meeting you could vote on that day. Maye agreed that we had ballots that came in from several current members and some of those votes went to Kate and Jon as well, but that wasn't the issue. John said that the bottom line is the definition of the word "current" as to membership. He said that if he pays \$20 on the day of the election then that's a "current" membership, in his opinion. Dee Dee said that she agreed with John, but she had a problem with the number of proxy votes allowed for one voting person. Kate asked what the difference was between somebody bringing in proxy votes versus receiving them in the mail.

She also stated that the ballot had not gone out in a timely fashion so that people could send it in through the mail and that had that happened, her votes would have come in through the mail. John asked for a clarification of Dee Dee's definition of proxy. Dee Dee said that she meant that all of those votes that came in also had assigned their proxy to the Mara family. John said that the bottom line was that the Board needs to take a position on the voting system. His opinion was that the past is the past and let's move forward. If we are to move forward in a positive way we can say you have to be an active member for one year in order to vote. Maye then said that if it's wrong enough to change the voting procedures now, then what happened was wrong. Kate then said that during Maye's election there were similar things happening. Maye denied that emphatically and said nothing was done on her part in the past, and that she did not come in with a bunch of envelopes to the 2010 annual meeting. John then said that this was not about right or wrong, it was about process, and the process is the way we did it. If we want to change the process for the future, then we change the process. Dee Dee asked that the proxy procedures be changed as well.

Kate then stated, on her behalf, that there were two votes that she actually solicited, and that those people had done lots of things for the Scenic and had just not become members yet. One of those was Kate's mother, and Kate said that she understood that Maye had a problem with that. Maye said that she only had a problem with the fact that all these votes came in at that particular time and there were people there who took the time to come to the meeting, and it was an important meeting, to vote. Kate then stated that she came to the meeting with seven people, and Maye said that those votes made at the meeting were not being contested. Then Kate said that she found it odd then that she still didn't win. Maye said that she had the ballots right there. John then said that the bottom line was that Maye has put on the floor that she's contesting the vote. John asked Maye for formal motion to be seconded and voted on by the Board for the record. Dee Dee said she didn't think the issue was a black and white as that. Kate asked Dee Dee if she wanted her to step down. Carole then asked to speak and she said that, perhaps, the issue is with the proxies. Maye said she had no issue with the proxies. Carole suggested that the proxies should be mailed in. Kate said that for that to happen the ballot needs to go out in a timely manner, which it did not. Maye said that it certainly did, it went out on the Monday before the election.

Dee Dee then said that she had a problem with 19 proxies going to one group. Jon Martin asked whether they were proxies or votes. Maye said they were both proxies and votes. She then said that proxies are for voting purposes, should a voting issue come before the membership at the meeting, and these people have given their proxy vote to a certain person. Maye said she did not have an issue with that right now. The issue is the amount of votes that came in at that time and so the issue is the word "current" when referring to members. Jon Martin then said that Wolfeboro requires that people be a member for a year before they can vote, but that we have established that if you pay your dues at the annual meeting you can vote. Maye said that her understanding was that current member's dues were due at the annual meeting so that current members who didn't pay their dues couldn't vote. John Charron said that our year starts at the annual meeting, so if he didn't pay his \$20 dues on that day, and he shows up at the meeting, he can't vote. We actually had a member who couldn't pay dues that day was not allowed to vote. Jon Martin then made a formal motion that the election stands at it is now, with he and Kate elected, and that the Board will review the voting procedures in two months at a regular Board meeting in September. Doris seconded. Kate said that this subject came up after last year's election in a lengthy discussion at a Board meeting with the prior Board. John said he agreed, and that the precedent was that if you dropped

\$10 or \$20 on the table at the annual meeting then you could vote, but we're looking to modify that now.

Kate then said, just to make it clear, that she went by the interpretations of the Board from last year, and she did not, as it was said during the annual meeting, behind her back, fix the election. Maye said she did not even discuss this issue at the annual meeting with anyone. The motion carried 4 -2. John said that in September we would discuss the method of voting in future elections.

- The next subject was the reorganization of the Board. Jon Martin nominated John Charron as president. Kate Mara seconded. John was elected president unanimously. Kate Mara nominated Jon Martin as vice president. Doris seconded it. Dee Dee nominated Maye Hart. There was no second. Jon Martin was elected vice president. Maye Hart nominated Doris George for treasurer. Jon Martin seconded. Doris was elected treasurer. Dee Dee nominated Maye Hart for secretary. Jon Martin seconded. Maye was elected secretary.
- We then moved to the secretary's report. Doris and John had responded by email with no changes. Maye said that after she gets a couple of OKs she waits a bit and then sends it on to the website. Dee Dee made a motion to accept the secretary's report as submitted. Doris seconded, and the secretary's report was accepted.
- We then moved to the treasurer's report. Doris said she did a June report and a July report. Dee Dee gave Doris some money from Encore. Carole said she took in \$1100 for This Here City, based on \$12 per ticket, so the Players' made \$332.40. Carole asked if the Players' wanted them to sell raffle tickets at the Odd Couple and the Board said yes. Dee Dee made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Maye seconded, and the motion passed.
- John backed up a bit to welcome the representatives from Northwood to the meeting and our guests Jen and Cassidy Kearns. Jen had a question about voting for the officers, and we explained how the procedure works.
- Dee Dee and Meggin are working on a Christmas Show. Jen K. said she interested in working as a co-director to be mentored and she offered to help with Man of LaMancha. John suggested that she might also help with the Christmas play. Jen will help with both.
- Northwood reported on The Odd Couple. They have a good cast, their posters are done, and Carole says it is going to be fun. Steve Aigner was coming in on Sunday to work on the set. Carole, Nella Hobson and Vicki Watson are going to work back stage. Jen said she'd be willing to help out.

- Dee Dee reported that Encore is off to a really slow start. She said that Larry Mossbrucker wasn't doing his part to advertise. She said there wasn't anything in the check-in pack, or on the activity sheet. Maye said that she will have a stern conversation with Larry. Dee Dee says it's becoming tough because we don't have the money to pay Keith. There was a discussion about Larry retiring this year and Becky Guyer taking over. There was a discussion about the lack of advertising and posters at Steele Hill and audience members who had to ask if there was a show. Maye said that she would tell Larry that he's got to promote the show, because at current audience levels, we can't afford to stay there. Maye will also tell him that we'll give it a couple of more weeks and then we may have to pull the show or put it somewhere else. She reported that Encore has booked September 16 at Plausawa Valley CC, and we have the Old Home Days Concert. There was a discussion of the contract with Keith Belanger and how that would work out, but Dee Dee said that Keith has gone back on some of his obligations, so if we have to, we'll pay him for what he's done, but if the show doesn't continue, we'll have to cut him off.
- Man of La Mancha – John Charron thanked Maye for getting the packet up on the website and some publicity out. John talked about the audition manual and its contents. Jon Martin asked if there was a membership application in the manual, and John said he hadn't thought of that. Kate said she had a promotion idea for the balloon rally, where we have stickers for the cups that they're going to use and we'll put them on for advertising. Kate said that the Board meeting is the place to talk about promotion ideas, and Maye suggested that as publicity committee chair, she be invited to the production meetings for LaMancha and John agreed. Jen asked about the publicity committee and Maye said anyone could be on it; so far it was just Mike Hobson and Maye. Kate then said that she had asked about learning how to do posters since Mike had quit. Maye said that he graciously agreed to come back on the committee and do just posters, and that he doesn't want to do press releases. She also reported that Meggin has offered to help out when she can.
- Maye then reported that the Kid's Theater Workshop would be doing State fair, the kid's version, this winter. The auditions will be in December, and she'll figure those dates out before the next meeting.
- Maye then presented Mal Cameron's proposal for Proof, and he would like to know if we'll do it as soon as possible. He's looking at late winter or spring 2012, so Maye suggested that any discussions about our scheduling include the proposal. Kate said that Mal is obviously interested in directing and we'd like to have him direct again, but she questions that particular play and the marketability of it and the profit margin.

She asked if Mal would be flexible in requesting an alternate show that he would like to do. It was decided that Maye invite Mal to the next Board meeting to discuss Proof and alternatives.

- Geri Veroneau brought up the show for the Epsom Library asked for permission to rehearse in the theater upstairs while Carole is downstairs rehearsing Odd Couple. She also asked for a Monday or Friday in addition. Geri said that the Clavinova piano was hers. The Board agreed to allow rehearsals.
- Dee Dee asked if she could have the permission of the Board to take home the Kurzweil piano to see if she could get it figured out so she could explain it to other piano players. Jon Martin asked if Encore was separate from the Pittsfield Players and Dee Dee said no, it wasn't. So then Jon asked if the equipment that Encore has can be used by the Pittsfield Players. There was a discussion of using the lights on stage. Dee Dee said she had a problem with them being used as they are the only travelling lights we have and they all have to be put back together on the poles. Maye said that when we've used them in the past, they've been used to light the cyc and then Jim Hart has always been here to put them back together for her at the beginning of the season. Dee Dee's issue was with blown lights and gels, and said that as long as the Players replaced those items then they could be used on stage. The Board gave Dee Dee permission to take the piano home.
- New membership cards have been signed. All new members have been added to the list. Maye will work with Terry to get the cards in the newsletter in September. Maye will also have a membership list for Old Home Days. It will not affect Odd Couple.
- Dee Dee asked if the Old Home Days concert was on the web and Maye said yes. She hadn't checked with Al Douglas about sales. Doris said the local calendar had us on for Thursday. Maye said we were in the Sun and the schedule for Old Home Days.
- Maye reported that she and Carole are working on dinner theater where Carole would handle the production of the show and Maye would handle the dinner. Maye said it would be at the Community Center.
- The pie sale is still on and Maye will report on that soon. Maye will ask Lori at Dominic's if we can use an area for pie sales, and then Maye needs a committee of 6 or so to get the pies baked. Dee Dee has talked to the Bingo place, and we're in first if the add another night at the Loudon Speedway. Kate mentioned a wine tasting she is investigating.
- Jen thought that we should do a dinner and a show pairing with either Dominic's or Jitters and promote it as a night out. Kate said there are some ways that we could make that work. Jon asked about improv and Maye

reported that she only had one person interested in it. Carole said that they had done it in Northwood and it was successful, but after that it became costly. She also said that with improv, once in a while is OK, but not a steady regular show. It's something to do as a summer event.

- Kate then mentioned a young people's café with bands, and the kids bring in their own crowd. Jen mentioned that PYW was thinking of doing that, and Kate suggested that we work together with PYW to make one of these evenings happen. Carole mentioned Majestic Idol with teens, and how successful that was. John reminded us that we will always need volunteers to get these ideas done. Kate said we should work with PYW. Maye will put all these ideas on a list and we'll talk about them at the next meeting.
- Jon reported that Geri made quite an impression at Rotary. Meggin said she was a great addition. The next Rotary is Wed. August 24. Then he mentioned the assembly of the Old Home days float and how he needed help with that. Jon then mentioned the Balloon Rally and how he needed volunteers to flip burgers at the Rotary tent. They discussed times and dates. Jen said she might be able to help. Carole said she could do Saturday. Jon also mentioned the good crowd of volunteer helpers for the Rotary Changing of the Guard.
- Jon reported that he hasn't gone through the fire inspection for the second time, but that he will meet with the inspector soon.
- Maye reported that she sent out the July issue of Curtain Up for both July and August that covered the Old Home Days Concert, the LaMancha auditions and Odd Couple. The next issue will be for September.
- Kate brought up the subject of out heaters and that Jan Pinard had mentioned that one needed to be fixed. The subject had been tabled before. Kate asked that the project be taken on before winter. Jan said that one did not work, and Dee Dee said that one couldn't be used. We will find out how much it costs and will have it reconditioned.
- Maye asked if we do pre-buying of kerosene anymore, and John said that had not been done for a while. Doris said we buy from Davis Fuels and they may or may not have pre-buy plans. Maye suggested we find out whether it would be worthwhile to pre-buy and Doris agreed to ask about the plan.
- Jon Martin spoke to John Maddox about the repairs that need to be done and said he wants them done soon. Maye asked if Jon had contacted Kelly about painting the front, but Jon had not called him yet. John says the repairs will begin the day after Labor Day. Maye reported that we need to buy a new closer for the stage door because Jim couldn't fix the old one.
- Maye had a new program ad book that had been printed for the Encore Concert. She explained that each program will be its own production. Every

show we do will be a new book. Denise has asked for a week and half lead time, but Maye will take care of it.

- John said that next month we'll get back to work on the Production Manual, and we'll shoot for beginning work in October.
- Carole brought up that the Players' contract with NTW runs out in August and needs to be revisited and reviewed. John suggested that their board could meet with us in August at our regular meeting, but that their whole board did not necessarily have to be there, that we could negotiate with Carole and Geri and they could go back to their Board with the agreement. We agreed that the conversations would begin in August and then, if needed, run into September.
- We briefly discussed the Fiddler Contest. Kate brought up that we lost Encore Dance recital last year and Maye said that she was in contact with Dianne Rueffert about that. Dee Dee brought up the wedding in September and she will get the information to Jon about the date, etc.
- John brought up the By-Laws and accommodation to them to include two new members. Maye said she didn't think we had to do a By-Law change at this time, unless we have a merger. The Board agreed. Carole asked if they could use some props and Doris said to give her a list and she'll take care of it. We then talked about the bar backstage and how it had to be moved away.
- Maye asked if Jim could get more light bulbs and other lighting equipment and the Board agreed that he should get them.
- Dee Dee asked about being reimbursed for music for Encore. She paid the bill and she can submit a copy of her credit statement for payment.
- Jon Martin made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm. It was seconded by Dee Dee, and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Maye Hart, Secretary