

January 10

Present:

First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectman Anthony J. Bedini. Buildings and Property Commissioners Mark Showalter, Nick Solley. Bryan Memorial Town Hall Trustees Barbara Johnson, Kathy Linley. Architect Peter Bowman and ASAP Director Joanne Torti.

Call to Order:

First Selectman Mark Lyon called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

Discussion regarding future plans for the Main Hall of Bryan Memorial Town Hall:

Mark Lyon began the discussion by explaining to those present that the demolition that needed to be done as a result of the propane explosion has been completed. An architect has been hired to work on possible plans for the lower level that would include possible storage areas, fire exits, code compliance, etc. That brings the discussion to the auditorium level and the best utilization of that space – particularly the stage area.

Some townspeople – particularly from the Arts community - have approached Mark regarding the replacement of the stage. What needs to be looked at is whether or not the time and cost of replacing the stage is worth it given it may only be used once or twice a year and because there are other venues in Town with stages/performing arts facilities – Washington Primary School, Shepaug School, Devereux, Rumsey Hall, etc. The primary purpose of the building is governmental – and more meeting, office and storage area is and will be needed. Could the stage area be used for this?

Architect Peter Bowman had looked at the original plans of the auditorium area and explained what would be involved if the stage were to be replaced – or the space used differently - ADA requirements, fire and building codes, etc.

Joanne Torti spoke about the aesthetics of the room and the hope to retain the original architectural beauty.

There was lengthy discussion about how to incorporate the stage area as a meeting room – possibly equipped with technology such as white boards, computer server areas, storage area in the wings for chairs and tables and keeping the look of the auditorium as it is presently with the possibility of adding a “stage area” if found to be necessary in the future. It was agreed the most pressing current need is for a meeting room that could hold 60-70 people. Long range planning may include more office space.

As the Town Hall is used for an emergency shelter there was thought and some discussion of perhaps putting a kitchen area and showers in the stage area. This idea has been dismissed for many reasons – including sprinkling, code compliances, the ability to use the commercial kitchen at Legion Hall if an emergency power source was installed, etc.

At the conclusion of the meeting it was decided to speak with the architectural firm that has worked

on the replacement of the windows in the Main Hall and begin conceptual planning. Discussion will continue.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary