

FNRT-MC Meeting Minutes

Board Attendees: Tom Frantz, George Heaton, Craig Heim, Lindy Heim

Guests: Elaine Clough and Bruce Crawford (Boscawen)

Business Matters:

1. Minutes of September meeting, accepted unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report, accepted unanimously

3. Technology report. The website continues to be kept current through the efforts of Volunteer Manager Cathy Liske. Contacts with new potential sponsors are being pursued.

4. Title Changes in Board Officers. Co-President Myra Mayman will no longer serve in the additional capacity of Secretary; and current Recording Secretary George Heaton will assume this additional title.

Trail Improvement Initiatives:

1. Signage. The strong sense of the meeting – coupled with inputs from other Board members in advance – favored installation of milepost interpretive signage on the Trail as soon as possible. Expenditures for this initiative have previously been authorized, thus allowing it to proceed.

The sign prototypes that have been under consideration for some time will soon be produced and installed on the Trail at all five current kiosks, as well as in Danbury. Co-President Lindy Heim is

making arrangements to obtain signs of approximately 18" (h) x 24" (w) in laminated paper, which would utilize the designs heretofore considered. While these designs may warrant changes in the future, their installation now would be of significant benefit to Trail users.

The Board regards this signage as an initial effort, and solicits the input of all on possible improvements.

2. Maintenance Projects. Chris Norris has been overseeing the extensive maintenance work now being undertaken on three bridges, several culverts, in addition to ditching and resurfacing at various sites. As with many such jobs, the full extent of the work is not known until it is undertaken. This has proved true in many instances, such as bridge planking needing replacing, damaged supporting beams, and completely plugged culverts. Happily, these problems are being admirably resolved by our two contractors Rodney Judkins and Jon Champlain.

The Board wishes to acknowledge and thank these contractors for their excellent work, as well as Chris Norris for his time in supervising the work and reporting in detail to the Board.

Legal and Policy Issues:

1. ATV Controversy. The use of ATVs on rail trails – currently not a permitted use under Federal policy – has been advocated by certain New Hampshire towns, that have petitioned U.S. Senate and House Representatives to change Federal law in this regard.

The FNRT-MC is strongly opposed to any such change, which could destroy trail surfaces and create serious safety hazards. With this in mind, the FNRT-MC has brought a proposed resolution opposing change in Federal policy to the attention of the Selectmen in Andover, Danbury, Grafton and Lebanon. In all cases, the Selectmen have voted to ratify this resolution, and have sent it to all members of the NH Congressional delegation. Consideration of the same by Wilmot is scheduled for November.

The Board is gratified by this show of support for our position among the towns on the Trail, and it will continue to oppose any potential changes in use that would be damaging to the Trail.

2. Modification to Board Voting Procedure. The use of electronic and other means of casting votes at Board meetings – currently not utilized -- has been under consideration for some time. The issue is a complicated by the existence of various possibilities, and has been a perennial subject of proposed legislation at the State level. The Board believes that additional action should be deferred until the legislative situation is clarified.

Future Dates of Note:

Wednesday, November 15, 2017 – Board Meeting, 7 PM, Take Root Co-Working, 361 Central Street, Franklin

Barn Playhouse Ends Historic 85th Season With Moss Hart Award

Award given for *All Shook Up*

Press release

The New London Barn Playhouse has capped its historic 85th summer season by becoming the 2017 recipient of the New England Theatre Conference's (NETC) Moss Hart Memorial Award for Professional Excellence, for its August production of *All Shook Up*. This is the second Moss Hart Award won by the Barn in as many years.

According to the NETC, "the Moss Hart Memorial Award has a two-fold purpose: to honor the memory of Moss Hart, dramatist and director, for his wit and sensitivity, for his unconquerable enthusiasm for life and for his work in the theatre; and to recognize and encourage outstanding theatrical productions throughout New England of play scripts that present affirmative views of human courage and dignity, that have strong literary and artistic merit, and which in their productions, exemplify fresh, imaginative, creative treatment within the intent of the playwright.

The New England Theatre Conference, in making the annual Moss Hart Memorial Award, seeks to encourage artistic growth and the highest standards of excellence in theatre."

The 2017 Moss Hart Memorial Award recognizes the Barn's production of *All Shook Up*, which was directed and choreographed by D.J. Salisbury with music direction from Robbie Cowan. *All Shook Up* brought together Barn veterans and newcomers to create a one-of-a-kind experience that thrilled audiences. Sharing the stage with our stellar 2017 Acting Intern Company were beloved Barn favorites and seasoned Broadway professionals who brought life to the Elvis Presley score. Featuring over 150 individually-created costumes from Costume Designer Beau Hamilton, a whimsical scenic design from Brad M. Carlson, and inventive lighting from Cecilia R. Durbin, *All Shook Up* was an enormous crowd pleaser, ultimately becoming one of the top five best-selling productions in Barn history and garnering extraordinary word-of-mouth in the region.

The Barn previously won the Moss Hart Memorial Award in 2016, for its record-breaking production of *Crazy For You*. On winning for a second consecutive year Producing Artistic Director Keith Coughlin stated, "We at the Barn are honored to accept this award. It recognizes the hard work and dedication of the whole team, both on and off stage, that helped make *All Shook Up* and the entire 2017 Summer Season possible. Each year we

set the highest possible artistic standards for ourselves, and we are proud to be recognized by the New England Theatre Conference in this way and proud to be a part of this theater community."

In the three years since Keith Coughlin assumed the position of Producing Artistic Director the New London Barn Playhouse has seen continued growth artistically and throughout the organization. The 2017 Summer Season was one for the record books in several ways:

West Side Story broke all existing Box Office records, becoming our best-selling production in history

On Golden Pond became our best-selling season-closer in history

We enjoyed over 20,000 individual patron visits

Over 100 Acting and Technical Interns, Guest Artists, Designers, and Staff were housed and fed over the course of the summer

2017 Summer Camps saw enrollment increase by almost 40% over 2016, introducing over 200 young artists to the magic of live theater

The Junior Intern Company presented five glorious Children's Theater productions, welcoming over 2,000 patrons of all ages to their performances

Over \$5,000 in tuition forgiveness was distributed across our Education Programs

Additionally, as has been previously announced, the Barn has been deeply honored to receive a \$125,000 grant from the Pussycat Foundation, a private foundation affiliated with the legacy of the great Helen Gurley Brown. The gift is part of a larger "Genius Grant" award recently bestowed on the Barn's Artistic Director Emerita Carol Dunne, whose work at the Barn from 2008 to 2014 was seminal in transforming the organization into the award-winning regional theater it is today.

The Genius Grant has been split in half and directed to both the Barn and to Northern Stage, where Carol has served as Producing Artistic Director since 2014, to honor her extraordinary impact on both organizations, her many years of dedication to the arts in our community and her role as one of the country's leading female artistic directors.

Looking forward, the Barn is gearing up to ride the momentum from such a successful summer straight into the 2018 season. Details on the upcoming 86th Summer Season will be announced this winter, but subscriptions are already on sale. Visit www.nlbarn.org to see some of the productions being considered and to reserve your subscription today.

TAI CHI

Moving Meditation

Keeping the Body, Mind and Spirit Relaxed and Refreshed

For

- Strength
- Balance
- Flexibility
- Concentration





The Red Barn, Wilmot Flat
Tuesdays, 10–11 A.M.
Andover at "The Hub"

Beginners - Saturday 9–10 A.M.
\$8 for drop ins \$30 for 4 weeks
For Info: 224-5768 • nesainc@aol.com