

PLAINFIELD TOWN HALL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

The Town Hall Committee met several times during 2007. This year the committee focused on moving the gas tanks away from the building. The clapboards by the tanks are discolored and deteriorated from the exhaust of the furnace and water/condensation. There are still, however, many pending issues. The committee is also working on a long-term maintenance plan.

Finished Projects:

1. The gas tanks were moved. After much study and discussion, it was determined that the best solution was to bury the tanks. The Highway Department crew was able to do most of the work, thus keeping the cost down.

2. The Knox Box was installed by the Fire Department.

Recommendations: (These recommendations, are ongoing, and have been forwarded to the selectmen):

1. Additional outside lighting should be installed to ensure the safety of people attending evening functions. This lighting would be on a timer and would be used only during the functions. This would be a good time to address the needed lighting as the selectboard is planning to change the lighting in the village.

2. A timer should be re-installed on the current outside above-door light.

3. The slate in front of the steps should be repaired.

4. Crushed stone should be placed along the foundation perimeter to protect the building from the effects of moisture/mold and to facilitate maintenance, etc. Regular weeding should be done. The contractor recommended this.

5. Windows should be washed. This has not been done since 1995. Glass in two of the storm windows broke and should be replaced.

6. The front threshold, which split, continues to deteriorate and should be replaced.

7. Several ceiling tiles, damaged by the water leak, should be replaced.

8. The committee has recommended some small changes in the rental policies; i.e., some wording related to the kitchen and a slight reduction in the hourly meeting charge, to bring it in line with the rate that the Grange charges.

9. The discolored and rotted clapboards on the north side should be repaired and painted.

10. A member of the Town Hall Committee or another individual should be on call during rentals for questions, information or problem-solving. This person would also be responsible for checking the hall and stage set after rentals to be sure lights, heat, etc. are off and the hall is locked, clean and left in good condition.

Long Term Maintenance Plan with Time Frame and Other Issues:

1. Painting—separate estimates have been obtained for painting the outside stairs and ramp, the bathrooms, kitchen and main hall.

2. Plaster repair—an estimate has been obtained for repairing the plaster cracks in the main hall, which are not extensive. We have also received an estimate for some preservation work on the original plaster and wallpaper in the stage area, which has not had any work done. Grants may be available for preservation work.

3. Discussions are ongoing about a user-friendly sign that could be used by organizations to advertise their event and which could be put out in front of the hall.

The Town Hall continues to be heavily used by private renters and town organizations. Plainfield is fortunate to have a large hall, which can be so diversely used. Functions held include the monthly Senior Luncheon and Social, the library book sale, the church rummage sale, dances and dance recitals, private parties, the library Artist-Designed Handmade Book Auction, the Maxfield Parrish Vintage Print Sale, the Annual 4th of July Art Show, the Newcomers Breakfast, the Bonebuilders exercise class, the fencing class, municipal meetings and many more.

The Maxfield Parrish stage set continues to be a strong draw. Attendance at the Vintage Print Sale increased again this year. The stage set committee receives many inquiries and requests for special

viewings of the set. All visitors are very appreciative of the effort made by the residents of Plainfield to preserve and protect this valuable and unusual piece of American art history.

Respectfully submitted by the Plainfield Town Hall Operations Committee: *Nancy Norwalk, Beverly Widger, Brad Atwater, Pam Abrahamson, Nancy Scott, David Chellis, Ruth Cassidy*