

Keene Public Library

Building and Grounds Committee

Meeting held 2/9/2024 at 10:00 AM (Draft)

Members present: Susan Bloom, Paul Henkel, Justin Somma, Scott Martin, and Marti Fiske. Kathleen Packard attended via Zoom.

Minutes of our last meeting were approved.

Maintenance - Brian is in the process of repairing and painting the louvered shutters in the Miller-Vincent Room. The completed ones work more easily and look nice.

A roof leak occurred in the atrium leading to the circulation desk. Melanson Company has been asked to repair the roof so this does not recur. In the mean time Brian has provided a temporary repainting so the interior damage is not readily apparent. Once the roof is repaired, interior painting by a vendor is planned.

New AV Equipment – A podium for Cohen Hall is in the process of being ordered. Some assembly will be required.

Acoustic Improvement of Cohen Hall and of the Main Lobby where the Circulation Desk is located – Marti Fiske reported on obtaining references for the two acoustical engineers who submitted bids. She noted that one of them, Eric Reuter, seemed comfortable working on projects of the scale that we require.

She shared a written response from one of his customers who noted “The acoustical difference before and after is amazing. For all practical purposes, the room [had been] useless... After the acoustic panels were installed, the room is a pleasure in which to host meetings and events. I highly recommend Eric Reuter for his expertise and follow up for acoustic-related issues. He steered us in the right direction to make our Community Room a valuable community resource.”

The committee voted to recommended that the Board and the Friends consider approving up to \$5000 be spent for acoustical engineering to specify a potential improvement of the acoustics of Cohen Hall and of the lobby where the Circulation Desk is located. The result is expected to be a specification of materials and where they should be placed. Once the engineering is done, we can request bids and determine the cost of materials and the labor to put them in place.

We suggested that one half of the acoustical engineering could be paid from the Heberton Hall Fund, which requires approval by the Friends, the Trustees and the City Manager. The other half we suggested might be paid for from Trustee funds. Marti Fiske will follow up on this.

Landscaping/Tree Identification– This is an ongoing project.

Paul Henkel, Chair

Schedule for next meetings: 10 AM Friday March 8 and 10 AM March April 12