



Putney Historical Society News

PHS membership and community support moving ahead with recommendations of feasibility study in open meeting, April 17.

Summer 2011

email:
info@putneyhistory.us
info@putneygeneralstore.org
websites:
http://putneyhistory.us
putneygeneralstore.org

**Change of address and phone: 802-387-4411
15 Kimball Hill
Putney, Vermont 05346**

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Inside this Issue:

- NSA Brain Trust p.1
- Movie Night p.2
- PHS/NSA p.2
- Things Need Fixing p.2
- The General Store p.3
- Our New Location p.4

Putney Historical Society office open at 15 Kimball Hill: Tues. & Sat. 10a-2p July-August

**NOTICE:
We have changed our phone number and address (see above)!**



Next Stage Arts Forming Brain Trust

On Sunday, June 6, a concerned group of experienced professionals gathered at John Burt's house to discuss Next Stage Arts (NSA), the new organization forming in the church building at 15 Kimball Hill. Participants shared their backgrounds and offered valuable perspective as the group considered important concerns of NSA, including potential benefits of an arts center for the community; the need for programming which appeals to varied audiences; possible collaboration with local organizations; operational and facility challenges; and lessons the organization can learn from other, similar efforts. Steve Procter facilitated the meeting, bringing together over 25 people including local business managers and property owners, nonprofit directors from the Community Center, Sandglass, Yellow Barn, Putney Community Services, and the Clayton Opera House, musicians, sound designers and communications specialists, as well as representatives from the Statehouse, Transition Putney, and the PHS and NSA boards.

In the end, the group narrowed its focus to important action steps, including clarifying mission and vision; reconciling the dual purpose to serve the town and create an arts center; and moving ahead with sustainable, "bite-sized pieces" of fundraising.

Thanks to the combined intelligence of these good people, NSA is making good progress.

Amy Flack, executive director of the Thousand Islands Performing Arts Fund, discussed her experience with a similar venue, the Clayton Opera House, which "needs to attract both summer visitors and year round residents...a community center vision



Above, from left: Robyn O'Brien, Jacquie Walker, Cor Trowbridge, Catherine Stephan, Amy Flack.
Below: Maria ?, Richard ?, Wendy Raymond, Virginia Scholl.

Tuesdays and Saturdays are movie nights.

Kipling is closed, but the cinema is open in Putney! We've got a big screen, and high quality projection with powerful speakers. We've got fresh popcorn. We've got exciting movies, ranging from Star Wars to 12 Angry Men to Avatar.

It's not just an lot of fun to see a movie at Next Stage Cinema; we also greatly desire your attendance! We hope to help NSA (and subsequently PHS) bring in needed revenue through your donations, given at the door. Besides, it's a great community event.

Please consider visiting our new movie theater in Putney, brought to you by Billy Straus of Next Stage Arts, along with generous private donations.

What is the PHS/NSA relationship?

The Putney Historical Society has found a magnificent partner in the Next Stage Arts organization. The church building is large, and needs more than just a historical society to keep it vibrant.

Basically, PHS owns the building, and NSA runs most of its programs. In effect, NSA is becoming the building manager, bringing in entertainment and a variety of new facilities and professional experience. We are working toward a lease agreement, but already NSA has formed as a nonprofit with the state, and is awaiting federal status. They are insured, and continue to put large amounts of posi-

tive energy into improving the building and its programming. We have been extremely lucky for their interest in our wonderful, historic church building.

Our current agreement has NSA responsible for 60% of operational costs of 15 Kimball Hill, with a planned increase to 100% in the next few years. NSA plans the upstairs events, while events downstairs are scheduled through PHS, including the traditional uses of community supper, and support groups.

We are working as partners to develop a clear vision for capital fundraising and building improvement. For now, we

plan a year of small, focused efforts to fix specific building problems that need to be addressed. See the article below to learn more about those.

For further details on the future of PHS and NSA, please review the church feasibility study funded by the Fresh Sound Foundation, at putneyhistory.us.



Yellow Barn concert preparations

Some things need fixing.

The old church building at 15 Kimball Hill is busy, while ailing in some respects. The frame is strong, but unless we make roof repairs (10K), improve insulation (6K), ventilate the crawl space (5K), and paint the build-



Above: Maintenance issues include the rotten shed out back.

ing (15K), major human safety improvements, including exit signs, rails, safety mats, and a fire alarm system. We've improved security and installed a stage, with lighting as well as cinema equipment. We'll improve the signage soon, and we hope we can afford to accomplish some of these important maintenance tasks on our list, that go beyond our usual operational costs.

We've invested 12K. All of us use this space. The building is at risk. Can you help us keep it vital?



Margot Torrey's beautiful woodcut

The General Store



-----cut on dotted line-----

PLEASE SEND US A DONATION.

The Putney Historical Society needs your help.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Specific Projects at 15 Kimball Hill:

Roof DESIGNATE AMOUNT BELOW:

Paint **15 Kimball Hill:** _____

Accessibility

Insulation **Putney General Store:** _____

Ventilation

Choose from above, or let us choose.

PHS: _____

Make check payable to:

Treasurer, Putney Historical Society

Mail to: Putney Historical Society

15 Kimball Hill, Putney, VT 05346

We are a nonprofit. All gifts are tax deductible.



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Putney Historical Society Changes Locations!

The ladies' parlour saw many dynamic years, with the busy congregations of the Federated Church, and later the United Church of Putney. The authors of the 1953 History of Putney met here and planned our town's bicentennial anniversary. Now it has become the new office for the Putney Historical Society, and we hope it will see many more vibrant years ahead.

The room continues to serve as a meeting space for various groups, but is now a resource for community research as well. On location are our subject files (searchable electronically), our photographs, documents, audio, video, and map collections, our library, and artifacts. We have high speed, wireless internet, and an answering machine. **(Please note our change of address to 15 Kimball Hill, and our phone number to 387-4411).** We can copy, scan, print, and fax. We even have some comfortable chairs, and you can make tea. Bring your laptop, your kids and their portable electronic gadgets, and let's have some fun learning about the place where you live.

We would like to note that our genealogy records and some reference texts will remain at the Town Hall, as they are in regular use by researchers; since property and other useful town records remain here as well, the town offices will continue to serve as an important location for community research. We are pleased that they are within convenient walking distance of the new historical society office, in the heart of Putney!

We will be open for business July and August from 10 am to 2 pm, Tuesdays and Saturdays. Visitors can also contact us to make an alternate appointment, or to make research queries.

NEXT STAGE CINEMA

All films start @ 6:45PM.

JULY MOVIES

7/2 - STAR WARS IV - A NEW HOPE
(Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher) PG

7/5 - CASABLANCA
(Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman) Unrated

7/9 - AVATAR
(Sam Worthington, Sigourney Weaver) PG-13

7/12 - 12 ANGRY MEN
(Henry Fonda, Lee J. Cobb) Unrated

7/16 - CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON
(Yun-Fat Chow, Michelle Yeoh) PG-13

7/19 - THE THIN MAN
(William Powell, Myrna Loy) Unrated

7/23 - NATIONAL TREASURE
(Nicholas Cage, Diane Kruger) PG

7/26 - THE PHILADELPHIA STORY
(Cary Grant, Katharine Hepburn) Unrated

7/30 - THE LORD OF THE RINGS
(Elija Wood, Ian McKellan) PG-13

Admission is by donation.

Next Stage Cinema...
Big Screen. Good Friends. Fresh popcorn.