

## Memorial Hall Improvements Summary

The Town of Essex was recently chosen to be a recipient of a *Cultural Facilities Grant* from the *Vermont Arts Council*. The grant, in the amount of \$20,000, was used for upgrades to the interior of Memorial Hall. Overall, a total of \$80,013.75 was spent on the upgrades to the hall. Those upgrades include:

- (1) New paint on the interior walls of the main hall as well as the entranceway into the hall. The colors were matched to the existing colors of the hall.
- (2) Additional electrical wiring was installed to cover more of the hall space. All other outlets and fixtures were brought up to code.
- (3) The existing wood floors were refinished and a new matte finish was used to reduce the glare from the stage lighting.
- (4) New dynamic staging platforms replace the existing plywood platforms. The new staging can be set-up in several different configurations, or can be completely deconstructed for maximum available floor space.
- (5) New moveable audience seating was purchased and installed, which can be used either on the platforms or on the floor for a variety of seating configurations. The previous platforms and staging were fixed and had no options for arrangement.

The work effort was accomplished using a variety of resources including the services of several contractors, administrative assistance within the Town Public Works Department, installation services by the Department of Public Works & Parks and Recreation Department employees, as well as community volunteers from the Essex Community Players.

As mentioned previously, the new seating platforms allow for more flexibility and options in the space. Memorial Hall is used for a variety of activities and the new equipment will be more accommodating for all that use the facility. Without the help of the grant, the work would not have been completed this year.



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