

Use of "The Great Hall" Town Hall Auditorium

What would the auditorium be used for?

1. First and foremost the hall would be for town government use; Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, etc. as well as other meeting space required by town government. Flexible seating and tables as well as audio visual equipment would be available to seat a variety of audience sizes. (A partition dividing the space in the middle could be explored so that two meetings could happen at once in the hall, but that idea could wait to see if there is a demand for that much space.) Given the many meetings in town hall, it is clear that during the weekdays the hall would be in great demand.

2. Town Elections could be held here to relieve the strain and parking congestion on the Elementary School

3. Non-governmental use of the hall: (Note - A policy would need to be established for use of the hall beyond what is stated above. (I.e. supervision, security of town office space, rental if appropriate, etc.) It is assumed that all town office space would be locked at the end of the business day so that anyone using the hall in the evening and weekends for cultural/recreational or other use would have no access to town office space or equipment.

Use of audio visual equipment permanently located in the great hall would be under the supervision of the town employee designated to open town hall and supervise all events. (Custodian?) Bathrooms would be located on the 2nd floor of the new addition, the only access that the public would have to that part of the building after business hours.

A. Recreation - even though the Rec. Dept. is part of town govt., it deserves a special category

B. Town Cultural presentations, performances (i.e. theater, speakers, film, etc.) Note that the library does not have much space to expand its meeting room (currently approx. 55 max.) and has had over flow audiences in recent years and had to turn people away. The town hall would seat at least 125. These could be events sponsored by town organizations such as the Historical Society, the Library, Lions, etc. (Note – there would be openings on weekday nights when there is no town govt. demand for the space and the weekend nights and days.

C. Rental to outside groups to stage events/performances/ conferences, etc. – a policy would have to be adopted for this use. Rental fees could help defray annual costs associated with the renovation/addition to the town hall. It remains to be seen if significant rental income could be generated by the restored auditorium, but its historic character gives it much more appeal than other spaces in town. It would be up to the town to promote this rental use.

To summarize –If the great hall space is opened up again, what could it be used for?

Town government board meetings

Many additional meetings during the day related to town government departments and boards

Town Elections

Cultural performances (theater, film, musical events, recitals, lectures, etc.)

Historical Exhibits

Social – dances, fund raisers, receptions, etc.

Conferences

Fairs

Rental by outside groups