

Keene Public Library
Building and Grounds Committee
Meeting held 8/16/2024 at 11 AM

Members present: Paul Henkel, Marti Fiske, Sally Rinehart and Justin Somma.

Minutes of our last meeting were approved.

Meeting Room statistics were presented by Marti. Usage fees for public (often free) and non-public use are on the web.

Elevator Repairs Needed

Cohen Hall elevator has needed repair since an electrical storm a couple weeks ago. Recently the youth area elevator also failed.

Acoustic Improvement of Cohen Hall and of the Main Lobby where the Circulation Desk is located –

As already reported, the acoustical study conducted at the Keene Public Library highlights the issue of high reverberation times in both Cohen Hall and the Circulation Lobby. Reverberation times are currently 1.9 seconds in Cohen Hall and 1.7 seconds in the Circulation Lobby, which is significantly higher than the recommended range of 0.8 to 1.0 seconds. This excessive reverberation reduces speech intelligibility and music clarity.

To address this issue, the study recommends the addition of sound-absorbing materials to the ceiling to reduce the reverberation time.

For Cohen Hall

We received two cost estimates. The estimates varied greatly. Treating the entire ceiling with a 1-inch absorptive product would achieve the desired results at speech frequencies. If the plaster needs to be removed, sprinkler heads and lighting fixtures may not need to be extended.

We determined that having a Request For Proposal issued is a logical next step. We believe we will be best served to have the Eric Reuter engineering firm which did the echo sound studies assist in drafting the RFP, reviewing the responses, and providing guidance.

For the Circulation Lobby

We discussed considering a whimsical approach of introducing some fabric surfaces to see if the privacy of discussions at the circulation desk might be improved.

Paul Henkel, Chair

Next Meetings: September 20 at 10:15 AM and October 18 at 10:15 AM