

Theater Needs 3 Parking Spaces--For Stage

Written by Steve Frank

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The space of two or three cars—that's what John Cooper, representing the Appalachian Theater of the High Country says the group working to bring the old theater back to life say they need to make the theater fully functional. What the group said they need are spaces just behind the town hall on King Street, spaces currently used for staff parking, the lot also containing three visitors spaces. Cooper, ATHC chairman, told the Boone Town Council the small addition would make for a much more versatile theater for all types of performances. At Tuesday's Town Council meeting, he requested a land donation from the town of Boone to build a wing onto the existing downtown theater stage. Town Manager Greg Young told the board the town could move visitor parking spaces from that lot to the adjacent pay parking lot but that it would result in less revenue for the town from those spaces, and the council voted to request specific dimensions and details about the request from the architect.

The town purchased the facility on King Street for \$624,000 in a foreclosure sale in 2011, and since then ATHC paid off the loan, and Cooper revealed the 'silent' phase of fundraising has raised nearly \$3 million.