

Performing arts center proposed

by **Bette Tani** | Staff Writer

Representatives from H.G. Fairfield came before the town board Wednesday, January 19 to discuss the possibility of creating a performing arts center at Lakeside Park.

Their mission according to Executive Director Kim Blacklock is to promote arts and culture. "We want to create a campus that is sustainable in four areas; performing arts, fine arts, wellness and sports," Blacklock said.

Part of what they are proposing, which they intend to financially back through fundraising and donations is to implement a philosophy that focuses on well being, the creative process, physical fitness and environmental stewardship, as well as creating a 300 to 360 seat arts center with studio space. According to

Blacklock the group already has approximately \$500 thousand to put toward the project.

Blacklock said that their organization understands the needs of the town at Lakeside Park, including summer camp and is more than willing to work around the town's programs and activities. They also stated that they would work closely with Gaito & Associates, the firm enlisted by the town to do work on the Lathrop Building, as well as meet the requirements for the town's comprehensive plan.

Representatives from H.G. Fairfield will continue to meet with town members as they have been recently including Town Supervisor David Kelly, Recreation Department Director Melissa Smith and head of buildings and grounds Wendell Weber to see this project come to fruition.

"We are thrilled with this oppor-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➔

ARTS CENTER

➔ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tunity and are networking on getting attention for this project," Blacklock said.

"We are planning for excellence

and feel there is a mesh between us and what the town wants," she added.

The H.G. Fairfield Arts Center for the Environment, Inc. is a registered New York State not-for-profit that consists of an eight member board of directors, 20 member advisory board, a fund development committee and

a land acquisition committee. They are expected to continue discussions with the town and will attend future board meetings.

Members of the board expressed their enthusiasm about the project and future dealings with the group.