

R o w e g o n i a n

Digby Theater Still In Danger

Jersey Jackson

Local activists have renewed their efforts to save the historical Digby Theater in downtown Rowe. Plans to demolish the Digby Theater have been in the works since late 2019. Demolition was originally scheduled to take place on December 20th when activists turned out to oppose the destruction of the theater.

At the December demonstration, local law enforcement officers clashed with protesters and members of the press covering the event. “It was the same old thing as always,” said protester Danger Smith, “law

enforcement doing the dirty work of a bunch of rich guys. I know they’ve got a job to do, but I’ve been jammed up by these guys before and it’s always the same.” The Rowe Police Department declined to comment for this story.

In December, the Rowegonian uncovered a connection between the building inspector for the demolition, Ari Frankel, and the Digby’s owner, Camden Buchanan, casting doubt on the legitimacy of the inspection. As a result of that reporting by the Rowegonian and the actions of the protesters, the City Council halted the December 20th demolition just as the bulldozers fired up. They ordered a review of the building inspection performed by Frankel before any demolition

could take place. “The allegations that Frankel was anything but ethical in her preparation of the building inspection report are ludicrous,” said Buchanan. “We have hired another inspector to prepare a report and are confident that demolition will move forward soon.”

Buchanan’s confidence was well-founded as the City Council quickly approved the demolition plans after submission of the new report. Demolition is set to occur on January 15th, 2020. Local activists have already begun gathering support on social media and plan to try to thwart the City’s plans again. “We’ll be there,” said protester Smith. “We’re not afraid of the City, the fat cats, or being arrested. See you on the 15th!”