

Library Exploratory Committee Minutes

Meeting date 2/8/2022

Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM by Chair Laura Cousineau

Attendance:

Via Zoom:

Leigh Callahan, Lori Scheuer, Nancy Wightman, Betty Caterino, Carla Boyington, Keith Mullane, Barbara Ciesliski, Susan Chandler, and Dan Poor.

In person: Stephanie McAndrews, Sandy Guest, Bill Gallagher, Colleen O'Neill, David Kruidenier, Richard Scheuer, Dillon Gallagher, Laura Cousineau, Heidi Jaarsma, Kathi Patterson, and Judith Kaufman.

The meeting was a joint meeting between the Library Trustees, the Library Exploratory Committee, and the Cornish Community Initiative.

Laura Cousineau reviewed the timeline and some common questions and answers. Please see presentation.

Laura Cousineau presented a spreadsheet of tasks and issues and responsibilities. Please see spreadsheet.

It was explained that Colleen O'Neill had invited the State Librarian to visit the CGS building and the current library, G.H. Stowell Free Library. Several people attended including representatives from the CCI and two Library Trustees.

Discussion ensued regarding future actions. The future of the G.H. Stowell Free Library was discussed. The Trustees stated that they were not in support the building under the current plans given the cost and loss of space for collections and programs even if the Town does not vote to accept the Cornish General Store building given the costs and loss of space for collections and programs. Heidi Jaarsma pointed out that the visit from the State Librarian highlighted the fact that access equity is the foundation of a library system.

The Warrant article to study both the relocation of the library and to follow up on the plans created for the Trustees' renovation of the current building were discussed. It was found important to follow up in order to give voters an accurate comparison of the two options. The CCI was asked if it would serve as a conduit of donated funds if the Town voted to renovate the G. H Stowell Free Library building. It would not.

Kathi Patterson reported that the Trustees had spent \$4,730.00 to study the renovation of the current building and had returned \$7,067.00 to the Town. The architect had preliminary plans for three options.

The discussion turned to future duties and how they will be divided. The Exploratory Committee will continue its work which is to be concluded on or before Town Meeting 2023. After that the Trustees will work with the CCI.

The Chair asked if CCI had anything to add. The CCI stated that there was sticker shock at the renovation estimate, and that extra time will be helpful. CCI reported that it is registered with the State of New Hampshire and is applying for 501(c)3 status with the IRS.

Heidi Jaarsma reported that the Committee needs a final letter of intent in order to prepare the interim report. Colleen said it will be available by Friday.

The next meeting was scheduled for February 15th, at 6:30. The Committee will review the interim report at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28

Respectfully submitted,

Dillon Gallagher