

Joint Meeting:

Cornish Library Exploratory Committee
George H. Stowell Free Library Trustees
Cornish Community Initiative (CCI)

8 February 2022
Cornish Town Offices

Description of the groups*

George H. Stowell Free Library Trustees

The trustees have the entire custody and management of the public library and of all the property related to the public library (RSA 202-A:6). The authority of the trustees includes planning for library facilities (NHMA).

* As compiled by Heidi Jaarsma

Description of the groups

Cornish Library Exploratory Committee

The Committee is charged with conducting a feasibility study of relocating the Cornish Library to the Cornish General Store. A recommendation to relocate to the general store would result in an article on the town warrant directing the Select Board to enter into an agreement to accept the newly renovated library from the CCI. Passage of the article would require a majority vote at town meeting.

Description of the groups

Cornish Community Initiative (CCI)

From the mission statement:

“the Cornish Community Initiative is established to fund projects and programs that help maintain and enhance the quality of life in Cornish, New Hampshire. The Cornish Community Initiative strive to further programs in the arts, education, public affairs, community development, historic resources, the environment, recreation, and social services.”

Timeline of the project

- Based on 2018 open forum and knowledge of the restrictions of the Stowell building, trustee Patterson suggests contacting Colleen O'Neill to see if the library could lease space in the general store
- Caroline Storrs and trustee Cousineau meet with O'Neill.
- O'Neill responds with an offer to donate the entire building to the town, read at Town Meeting June 8, 2021, and received with a standing ovation.
- The Exploratory Committee receives charge from the Select Board and holds first meeting on July 21, 2021

Timeline of the project, continued

- Interior/Exterior committee send RFQ to architect firms. Three make presentations at Exploratory Committee meetings October 19 & 20, 2021
- Trustees approve funding to hire Banwell architects at October 25, 2020 trustee meeting (\$15,000 but no more than \$20,000) for Phase One plans
- At the November 16, 2021 Exploratory Committee meeting, O'Neill announces that she will form a non-profit organization to raise funds for and complete the renovation of the general store, and present it to the town. The gift is on condition of it being used as a library, and that the town signify willingness to accept the gift via a warrant.
- Needing more time gather information including more specific estimates for operating costs, the Committee votes to request more time from the Select Board.

Questions raised

Q1. How much money/activity remains from Banwell contract for Phase One plans?

A1. Close to \$10,000 specified for contracted work has been spent. The additional \$4000 for outside estimates is now allocated to WV Engineers for more specific heating costs, and electricity cost. This leaves \$1,000 from the Trustee allocation, with \$5,000 available.

Q2. Who is responsible for communication with Banwell for Phase One plans?

A2. All communications with Banwell must be through the hiring party, the Trustees. All requests for information must be directed to the Trustees, not from Banwell.

Questions raised

Q3. Would CCI pay for renovations to the Stowell building if the town votes no on the warrant?

A3. No. The offer from CCI is to give the town of Cornish the completely renovated building from what is now the Cornish general store. There is no offer of funding for the renovation of the Stowell Building. All funding for Stowell renovation would come from the town.

Q4. Can a bathroom be added to Stowell or would more have to be done?

Q4. Any renovation to Stowell would trigger ADA compliance, mandating universal access such as ramps, lifts, expanding space between shelves, etc.

Review of tasks,
groups responsible for each task, and
collaboration groups for each task

Please refer to handouts
for this discussion