

Notes on Conversation with Colleen O'Neill as regards naming the building the Cornish Library and *Community Center*

Conducted in a phone interview 27 June 2022

Follow up review of these comments via email 21 August 2022

Note: this is not a transcription but rather my notes on our conversation. My clarification comments are added in brackets prefaced by "Note". O'Neill's additional comments after reading my notes are included in brackets, prefaced by "On review."

First point to make is that it is very important and part of our [Note: "our" refers to the Cornish Community Initiative, also known as CCI] process to have feedback and productive critical discussions around the design to help improve the design and move in the right direction from the start. We foresee holding a very interactive meeting where we will all sit around and spitball ideas. Right now, we are going to have two very rough plans that will be a conversation starter to see what is possible and we will get everyone's feedback and be able to start working towards one idea that will become our schematic.

The intention to call the building the Cornish Library and Community Center was to convey the space as being more than just a library. [Note: "just a library" meaning referring to some people thinking a library is just a place with books to lend.] It would be a gathering spot for the community for a variety of activities. In some ways, it could be thought of as a library and community room or community space. But by calling it a community center, we hope to be able to draw attention to it's communal use as we look for charitable donations down the road. [Note: one of Ms. O'Neill's advisors believes that we could receive more donations and grants for the library by adding "community center" to the title.]

Some people don't go to the library. By expanding the use of the building, it will get more people in. It will be helpful in fundraising. There are people who love libraries, but this expands it from a place to store books.

Some ideas of what could be done:

- an emergency place for people who use power, since it will have a generator
- after school activities
- knitting classes
- puzzle swaps
- girl and boy scout meetings
- cooking classes
- Ted Talks
- presentations by speakers
- Building would be airconditioned, so could be a cooling place for people.
- More space for people to borrow things beside books
- indoor farmer's market in winter
- ukulele lessons

[Note: Each of these ideas/functions above are currently being offered at other public libraries]

The name would emphasize that we welcome people for library services and beyond.

[Note: I would consider all the above as library services.]

Calling it a “library and community center” does not mean that the library and the community center are separate things.

Who could use the building? Priority to Cornish and Plainfield – local groups [see donor letter]. Up to the trustees for the policies. Trustees will have time to develop policies. Could charge for some events. [On review, O’Neill adds: “And my stipulation that the space be available to others, would be at the discretion of the librarian and library trustees. It might be helpful if that is added to the Letter of Intent. That addition feels appropriate as I understand the library trustees will have authority over the building.” “We could add something like: Use of the Community Space would be at the discretion of the Cornish Librarian and Cornish Library Trustees.”]

[Note: it is correct that the Trustees would set policies after benchmarking with other public libraries. Also note that the Community Center subcommittee has done some benchmarking with local NH libraries.]

[On review, O’Neill adds: “I am also willing to consider modifications to my letter of intent as we continue to get more input and information about a Cornish Library at the Cornish Store Space. My interest is to see a modern and vibrant library in the Cornish Community, and one that can serve residents in the 21st Century and beyond.”]