

George H. Stowell Library Trustee
Thursday, January 27, 2022, 6:00 pm
General Store building
Meeting Minutes

Trustees present: Kathi Patterson, Richard Scheuer, Laura Cousineau

Others present: Colleen O'Neill, Stephanie McAndrew

- 1) Call to Order 6:03 pm
- 2) Approval of minutes for Thursday, December 09, 2021. Changes were noted by Kathi Patterson. Minutes are approved as amended.
- 3) Treasurer's Report. Current balance: \$2,724.78. Patterson distributed the Expense Report for 2021 that showed monies budgeted and spent in 2021, the Income Report for 2021 that showed 2021 income and estimated 2022 income, the Building Fund Savings Account Report for 2021, and the Non-Lapsing Savings Account Report for 2021. She will submit the Expense Report and the Income Report to the Selectboard for the Town Report. The Income Report lists the amount that will be requested for 2022 at Town Meeting. All present thanked Kathi for her time and effort on these reports. Treasurer's reports approved as submitted.
- 4) Librarian's Report.
 - a) Star Party has been moved from Saturday to Sunday evening due to the snow expected Saturday night. It will be held on the green in front of the Cornish General Store, and hot chocolate will be served.
 - b) A second book club has started, led by Cindy Heath. The theme is "Hope in the time of climate change."
 - c) Cookie decorating February 12 for Valentine's Day 10:30 – 11:30 am in the Cornish General Store.
 - d) As an aside, Colleen announced that a volunteer will be working on the Web site and IT for the CCI, including ConnectCornish, and hopes that the Library will work with them on announcements and information for the community.
 - e) Stephanie applied for a bee pollinator program grant, but there were many applicants and our small numbers may have kept us from receiving it. St. Gauden's ranger is interested in doing programs with the library. St. Gauden's was suggested as a good location for a summer star party.
 - f) Stephanie has written the Librarian's report, but needs one more number. She will submit her report to the Selectboard tomorrow.
 - g) Stephanie is considering an ice-skating party, setting up a tent with hot cocoa.
 - h) There will likely be another puzzle swap by the CCI in the Cornish General Store, 10:30 – Noon, Saturday, February 19.
- 5) Old Business.
 - a) Review the Exploratory Committee progress. Laura reviewed the last meeting, as reported in the draft minutes. More information is needed before the report to the Select Board can

be written. The high costs estimates were reason to look more closely at the design, as was the lack of detail in the architect's operating cost report. Discussion of land purchase to expand the current building; however, the trustees explored this previously, and the zoning committee ruled that more land can't be purchased. The owner of the land must maintain one acre in the Village District. The Exploratory Committee needs a new estimate on the cost of the renovation, as many costs by MA+KE architects were outdated. In the report, we can give costs but also what you can get in each scenario. The sense of the trustees is that it would be better to leave Stowell as is rather than spend the money on renovations that take away parking spaces and collection space. The townspeople will want to see relative costs and services. The Exploratory Committee approved a warrant article for up to \$12,000 to fund more feasibility studies.

- b) Donation update for the Cornish Store Building. The CCI is getting their website up.-They have received their NH non-profit status and employee identification number and have applied for 501(c)3 status and should receive it by September. Stephanie suggested that CCI purchase the graphic software CANVA, which can be obtained for free by a non-profit, and can be used for brochure and website design.
 - c) Trustees agreed to the February 8 date for the joint meeting with CCI, Exploratory Committee, and Trustees.
 - d) The need for an open forum and brochure was discussed.
- 6) New Business
- a) Discussion of hours of operation for 2022. The library will go to 15 hours per week. Thursday hours 10:00 – 1:00 pm have been added. Tuesdays from 3:00 – 6:00 could be added, but Stephanie will need to hire a Library assistant. Stephanie is authorized to hire a library assistant based on her determination of staffing needs.
- 7) Other Business.
- a) ADA Compliance. There has been talk in Cornish about the handicap access issue at the current library. Kathi shared a letter dated September 5, 2000, about this and distributed ALA's ADA policy. It is Kathi's and Richard's understanding that because the building has not been changed since it was built, it is not subject to current ADA requirements.
 - b) Talking to the press. A reporter contacted Stephanie to ask about access issues. The librarian can talk to reporters or refer questions to the Trustees.
 - c) The library can require masks.
 - d) Richard asked why we don't have a sign on Route 120 pointing to the library. The trustees agreed that this is something we want. Richard will explore this.
 - e) Colleen called the NH state librarian, Michael York, to invite him to Cornish and to learn about the current and possible future library. He will come at 11:00 February 3rd to the Stowell building, and Colleen will take him to the Cornish General store afterwards.
 - f) We will contact Susan Chandler to review the contract with the architects to see what services have been given and are yet to be used.
- 8) Next Meeting Date: February 8, joint meeting with CCI and the Exploratory Committee in the Town Offices at 6:00 pm.
- 9) Adjournment 7:57 pm