

MINUTES

George H. Stowell Library Trustee Meeting (w/LEC)

Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 6:30 pm at the Cornish Town Office building

Present - Laura Cousineau (LEC Recorder), Susan Chandler, Dillon Gallagher, Heidi Jaarsma, Kathi Patterson, Caroline Storrs, Larry Dingee

Citizens Present - Keith Mullane, Marie DeRusha, Jill Edson, Colleen O'Neill, Stephanie McAndrew

1. Call to Order by Laura Cousineau, Chair, at 6:30 pm
2. LEC minutes for September 10th will be discussed at the next meeting since they had not been emailed to all the committee members.
3. Laura presented the Community Center Subcommittee report. The subcommittee members were Laura Cousineau, Stephanie McAndrew (librarian), Cindy Heath, and Christ Surunis who were tasked with exploring the meaning of "community center." She explained that there were two parts designated - what does it mean for a library to be called a community center and what are the policies and costs of having a community room in a library.
 - a. What does it mean? Most librarians say that the term is redundant because they see the library as a center for its community. It offers a safe and comfortable place for people to gather in groups and by themselves. Libraries call themselves by many names including **free library**, **public library**, and **library and community center**. Agreeing to the donor's request to call the newly renovated building the Cornish Library and Community Center places the emphasis on the fact that the library is a place that strives to offer something for everyone in the community and that it is there for everyone in the community.
 - b. Policies and Costs - Both renovation plans make provisions for the use of library space for community meetings and gatherings. Policies for use of the space would be developed by the library trustees. The Banwell plan for the store building assures a specific room can be accessed after hours by including a separate entrance, providing access to a kitchen and bathrooms, and for maintaining security with lockable doors that will prevent access to the rest of the library. No library that the subcommittee contacted parceled out costs for their community rooms; none had ways to separate the energy or other costs that might be associated with its use from the total operating costs.
 - c. Laura will add the hours that the libraries listed in the "Library Community Room Benchmarking Visits and Calls" are open to the report.
4. Caroline and Heidi passed out separate reports on Town buildings along with a spreadsheet that included information about heating systems, running water, is the water potable, septic systems, number of bathrooms, handicap access, designated

handicap parking, building size, building levels, level types, a designated meeting space, size of that space, capacity of that space, and considerations. Larry will gather statistics for the Fire Department building so that they can be added to the list. Caroline and Heidi will meet to combine/merge their documents. This new document will serve as an appendix to the Final Report.

5. There followed a discussion of the items in, the format of, and info that needed to be included in the final report:
 - a. Heidi wondered where the cost estimate was without the basement renovation that she had requested at one of the Stowell Renovation Subcommittee meetings. She motioned and Dingee seconded: To ask MA+KE to give an estimate of renovating only the 1st floor of the Stowell Library. Discussion followed. As consensus was not reached, a vote was taken. The motion failed. The comparison for the report will be the Phase One plans as developed and presented by the architects.
 - a. A citizen asked where the answers to the trustee questions raised at the forums were posted. Laura replied that she was waiting for the Town Building Inventory from Heidi and the CCI response and would post to ConnectCornish and the LEC web page as soon as she received those responses.
 - b. Larry questioned the amount of parking needed at the proposed store building when everything was used but was reminded that the Town's right-of-way around the green space and at the Meeting House should handle any overflow from the 18 plus 2 handicap spaces that are available in the Banwell plan.
 - c. Larry asked if the relative moving costs for the two plans had been included in the soft costs. Dillon will get moving costs for both options. This information can be added to either table as appropriate.
 - d. Larry asked whether or not the cost for flood plain mitigation (installation of flood vents) had been included in the report. Storrs referred to statement in the Banwell report. If required, the costs of putting in flood vents would be borne by the CCI. Heidi will provide the latest flood plain report as an appendix for the final report.
 - e. Larry questioned whether there would be a need for a crosswalk for people crossing Route 120 to get to the green and recommended contacting the State DOT
6. Work before next meeting. In addition to the actions meeting above, each committee member was tasked to review the charts and final report and send any proposed changes and additions to Laura prior to the next meeting. Each member was asked to think about and write a final paragraph for the "Recommendation" section of the report.
7. The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 25, at 6:30 pm. If necessary, another meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 1. The report will be presented to the Select Board on Monday, November 1.
8. Adjournment at 8: 15 pm