

George H. Stowell Library Trustee Meeting
Minutes
24 May 2021

Present: Trustees Kathi Patterson, Richard Scheuer and Laura Cousineau; Librarian Stephanie McAndrew; Guest: Carolyn Storrs

1) Meeting called to order 6:03 pm

2) Citizen Comments: Carolyn referred to her April 19, 2021, email. She raised the question of parking, handicapped access [historical exemption from current ADA requirements], bathrooms, collection expansion, meeting space, adequate water and septic. Might those be solved by moving to Cornish General Store. There is a state-certified septic system, and a well has been drilled, there is parking. There is a downstairs meeting space. She distributed letters of support from two citizens. She brought a drawing showing how the appearance of the building could be improved. If the building was divided into condominiums, the space needed for the library could be sold to the town as a condominium. There are other tenants currently in the space. Carolyn feels that the current owner might donate the space. The location might help bring in more users.

Motion: Designate Carolyn Storrs to approach the owner about the possibility of moving the Library to the Cornish Store. Moved by Richard, seconded by Kathi. Approved. Meeting was subsequently scheduled for June 3 at Noon at the store. Laura and Stephanie will attend the meeting.

3) No business to conduct at the town meeting. Library report is printed in the Town Meeting Report booklet.

4) Minutes approved as corrected. (Correction concerned parking.)

5) Treasurer's Report. Bills have been paid from the state-required non-lapsing saving account until the budget is approved at the Town Meeting. New appropriations will be used to replace these funds; Kathi writes a request to the town for this.

6) Librarian's report. Grant was received for telescope and activity backpacks with science and nature themes. Federal grant program gave 2 million to NH. June 18 for \$ to be spent by September. Sullivan county bonus: \$2800 for each library. Can't be used for tech or usual library expenses. Must be used for SNAP funds, outdoor expansion (tents, lawn chairs, pop-up library equipment). State library will help with applications, and libraries are sharing ideas. Children's Literacy Foundation offers \$2,000 worth of children's books.

Covid-19 restrictions were discussed. New state requirement is "universal best practice," that mostly impacts indoor activities. Stephanie asked to eliminate appointments. Trustees agreed.

The trustees instructed Stephanie to make other changes as she felt were appropriate and in light of the changing state regulations.

Stephanie's maternity leave. Most of her time is covered. [If her maternity leave starts early, Stephanie will contact Kathi.] Stephanie is concerned the some of the people haven't had the tech training needed. Universal passwords are coming for Koha and Overdrive with a new authentication system. Stephanie will make a patron handout with information about the username, login, and URLs. At some point, we will make a website for the library.

More people needed to help at the library. Volunteers can work if a paid staffer is present. Stephanie is responsible for hiring aides or recruiting volunteers. Paid aides fill out a W-4 with the town.

The trustees complimented Stephanie on the new newsletters.

7) Handicap access. Kathi has been following up with the land annexation that has had issues with land percentages. Report attached. Deed will soon be filed so that purchase (\$6,000) can be made. Approval for septic design is good for 5 years.

8) New business. Kathi requests that we sell a card catalog (surplus equipment) to a friend at \$25 a drawer. Agreed.

9) Next meeting date: 30 August 2021.

10 Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.