

George H. Stowell Library Trustee Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 12, 2021
Stowell Library

Attendance

Trustees: Kathi Patterson, Richard Scheuer, Laura Cousineau

Librarian: Stephanie McAndrew [and Sophie McAndrew, infant]

Citizens: Ginny Gage, Colleen O'Neill, Judith Kaufman, Caroline Storrs, Barb Cieslicki, Leigh Callahan, David Aguiar, Tony Newton

- 1) Call to Order 6:08 pm
- 2) Citizen Comments
 - a) The citizens listed above made comments and suggestions about a new library space and other issues.
 - i) Callahan requested permission for the **Cornish Book Club to resume meeting in the George H. Stowell Library. Approved.** These will be held the first Wednesday of the Month. She presented a generous donation for the new library building fund.
 - ii) O'Neil – Read a letter sent to her that described the value that the library in a nearby town brings to that community. She clarified that the library trustees had approached her about using part of the Cornish General Store as the library. [The idea of O'Neil's donating the building followed that.]
 - iii) Other comments:
 - (1) Important for Cornish to have a community space
 - (2) Discussion and plans should be about more than the building; we also need program expansion. The Library needs to be open more hours. We should expand the hours beginning now.
 - (3) Some people are worried about the impact from the loss of taxes from the Cornish General Store, the financial impact that could result from taking the building off the tax rolls. The new building could have more maintenance costs. Renters could be an issue.
 - (4) There are property management companies that could maintain the rental agreements.
 - (5) The annual income from current rentals is \$26,000 compared to the \$9,000 in taxes.
 - (6) Cornish citizens now use other libraries in the Upper Valley for meetings. The need for a meeting space in the Cornish Library exists now, as witnessed by the Cornish citizens who now use other libraries in the Upper Valley for meetings.
 - b) **Usual procedure suspended to allow citizens to comment on other items on the agenda.**
- 3) Approval of the May 2021 minutes was postponed.
- 4) Treasurer's Report

- a) \$17,356 current balance
- b) Deposit from town for library was \$13,527 in library salaries are paid directly
- c) **Report accepted.**

5) Librarian's Report

- a) Welcomed back Stephanie
- b) Back full time as of this week. Has been doing ILL and grants. Cliff grant received \$2000 for children's book, storytelling events, 2 here and 2 at local day care. First event will be scheduled for Fall; funds must be spent by the end of the year. O'Neil offered the store as a venue, as well as having a meeting there after the Cornish Fair. The Tasker Grant also has funding for crafts, storyboards and other items for a story time; volunteer help needed for this.
- c) **Monday hours.** Ginny Gage, Judith, Richard Scheuer, and Krista Dunn were mentioned as library attendants to cover this time. **Stephanie will set this up. 4:00 – 6:00 pm, and contact for training on Koha.**

6) Old Business

- a) Handicap access update. Per Patterson, this is on hold. The land purchase is on hold because comes from the Meyette donation for library renovations. The money is on hold to use for the new library renovations. Patterson contacted the Select Board to volunteer the Patterson trust to purchase the property, but Select Board put the purchase on hold. Property has to be purchased in order to have water and septic for the current Library building. Because this expenditure is more than \$5,000, it must be approved by the town.
- b) Parking update. Patterson reported that the renters across the street do not allow anyone to park on any part of their lawn. Patterson is clearing trees nearby to make other nearby parking possible.
- c) Adoption the Collection Development policy was postponed.

7) New Business

- a) Accept money donations. All must be formally accepted at a meeting. Accepted as listed.
 - i) Tasker Grant - \$1,600 (1/20) & \$750 (6/21)
 - ii) Hanover Garden Club - \$75 (4/20) & \$75 (3/21)
 - iii) Gage donation - \$175 (1/20) & \$50 (7/20) & \$300 (12/20) & \$150 (7/21)
 - iv) Parker donation - (\$200) 12/27/2020
 - v) Liggett donation - \$150 (5/20)
 - vi) Taylor donation - \$250 (11/20)
 - vii) ARPA Grant - \$2,857 (6/21). Covid Grant.
- b) Exploratory Committee progress by selectmen
 - i) Cousineau reported on her conversation with the Select Board at their meeting last Friday. Storrs expressed concern that the committee has not yet been appointed, as there is only so much time to be able to get started on Warrant Article.
 - ii) Scheuer called the Select Board [meeting at the same time]. They appointed:

- (1) Dingee
 - (2) Jaarsma
 - (3) Parry
 - (4) Patterson
 - (5) Cousineau
 - (6) Chandler
 - (7) Storrs
 - (8) Charge: costs, including rental portion; explore management company for rental units in the building; how spend rental revenue; condition of building; estimates of ongoing costs; including loss tax revenue in estimates.
 - (9) Comment: need comprehensive plan for expense and income projection; Kaufman has professional experience in this, and can be a resource. Colleen can give numbers; the energy audit includes a possible solar array.
- c) Discussion of the Cornish General Store building donation by Colleen O'Neil
- i) Scheuer: Librarian probably wouldn't run community room. We would want the building open outside "library" hours. We will be working on spaces and costs for developing spaces.
 - ii) Patterson: found out who did shelving for library at the school.
 - iii) Building size. 3200 square feet in new building; less than 1000 here.
 - iv) Other program and space ideas expressed such as using the kitchen, serving coffee.
 - v) There are two apartments, one above the store and one in back; this provides affordable housing, which is hard to find in our area. Old bank space is currently rented on month-to-month basis. The chocolatier is also on month-to-month lease and would like to stay and that his business could evolve to make it possible to serve community events. He reports that many people have told him they are excited at the prospect of having a community hub. O'Neil invited people to think about how the space can be used. Some of the equipment will be removed. A renovation committee will be needed. A capital campaign will be needed; O'Neil is willing to help with that. Events can be held there; the triangle green goes with the building. The Exploratory Committee may decide to have subcommittees. A Community forum will be held. The Cornish community should be kept informed of things happening for the Library. We could ask for help with website. The Community forum meeting could ask also what people could contribute. Stephanie invited everyone to sign up for the Library newsletter.
Other ideas: kitchen could be rented out.
- d) Friends of the Library. Scheuer has found incorporation letters for other Friends of the Library groups. They outline how to become a 501(3)c group. Gage said that we had a group before, but it was informal with no bylaws or incorporation. A Friends group is a separate entity from the Library and the Trustees. O'Neil volunteered to convene and lead the Friends group. Cieslicki has experience with Plainfield Friends Group. McAndrew has experience with the Plainfield Friends group, having worked at that Library. Kaufman encouraged group to have an attorney, which we might be able to obtain pro-bono, and to get seed funding for filing for NH and US non-profit status.

8) Next Meeting Date: 2nd Monday in August.

9) Adjournment at 7:15 pm.