

**George H. Stowell Free Library Trustee Meeting  
Monday, August 9, 2021 at 5:30 pm  
Cornish General Store**

Present: Patterson, Scheuer, Cousineau

Guests: O'Neill, McAndrew

1. Call to Order at 5:33 pm
2. Public Hearing pursuant to RSA 202-A:4-c, Trustees' authority to Accept and Expend Gifts, to accept and expend donations in the amount of \$30,000, \$6,500, and \$10,000.
  - a. Notice in public newspaper was posted in the July 31 Valley News, pursuant to the requirement.
  - b. Hearing no comments, **the trustees accept the donations and the ability to spend the donations.**
3. Citizen Comments
  - a. O'Neill asked about the table for the Cornish Fair to seek input on the future library building, services, and possible issues. Cousineau had sent ideas previous to the meeting. Staffing will be discussed at the next Friends meeting. The Open Forum, a joint activity with Exploratory and Trustees, with a report from the Friends committee, will be scheduled for September 27, 6:30 pm, in the Cornish General Store. Ideas: lay out length of current and future stacks; invite people to visit the current building prior, give reports on current progress and yet-to-be-answered questions.
  - b. Name of the Friends group was discussed, with an emphasis on including the concept of the community center in the name "library." Name is necessary for the 501(3)c status. Leaning towards "Friends of the Cornish Library."
4. Approval of minutes for Monday, May 24, 2021 and Monday, July 24, 2021
  - a. Hearing no changes, the **minutes were approved as emailed.**
5. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Balance of operating budget reported as \$12,941.
  - b. Other accounts:
    - i. Savings account (set up for Humanities programs now used for donations) is \$2,000.
    - ii. Building fund account balance is @ \$28,000. The recent donations approved at this meeting will be added
    - iii. The Palmer Norell family d donated \$1,000 about 20 years ago, the interest of which was to be used for purchase of science books. However, interest is insufficient to purchase a book. There was some discussion on contacting the family of the donors to change the terms of the donation.

6. Librarian's Report

- a. McAndrew reported contact from the NH Astronomical society, that will provide us with a grant to purchase a circulating telescope. Activity backpacks are on order with money from this grant.
- b. Summer Library Saturday program with face-painting, free books, and toys (any STEM-related) set up at the Library
- c. Library Hours. Monday hours will start after Labor Day. Patterson asked if we could add an hour to make it 3:00 to 6:00 pm or 4:00 to 7:00 (to be determined). This will be attempted. MacAndrew may open the Library on Tuesday afternoon during the neighboring dance class hours to accommodate parents with children in those classes. **Library will be closed for the Cornish Fair.** Anticipated hours beginning in **September after Labor Day:**

**Monday 4:00 to 6:00**

**Wednesday 3:00 to 6:00**

**Saturday 9:00 to Noon**

Money is available for paying aides. Volunteers who are not paid can also be called upon to assist when MacAndrews is working. Trustees upgrading MacAndrew to 13 hours per week to cover hours actually worked. Trustees encouraged MacAndrew to submit milage reimbursement for ILL driving.

7. Old Business

- a. Adopt the **Collection Development policy. Adopted.**
- b. Review the Exploratory Committee progress. All materials have been uploaded the website.
- c. Review Friends of the Library progress. Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 9. A written report will be sent out.

8. New Business. None.

9. Accept money donations. No new donations to report.

10. Discuss recommendations from the Implementation As a Town Building Subcommittee of the Exploratory Committee:

- a. Need to have a conveyance document.
- b. Need to engage town counsel for legal answers to questions,
- c. Need to hire an architect to assess the structural needs of a library
- d. **At the next meeting, trustees will review Subcommittee reports from the Exploratory Committee with an eye to reviewing Trustee and Select Board responsibilities for renovations.**

11. Allocate funding from the Library Building Fund for:

- a. Engaging Town Counsel for legal answers to Exploratory Committee's questions. Exploratory Committee recommended that we engage the town counsel to review

questions raised during that meeting. Cousineau moved that the Trustees authorize Patterson to use funds from the Library building fund to engage the town counsel.

- b. Hiring an architect to assess structural needs of a library in relation to the store building. Discussion on structural analysis that will also be necessary. **Patterson moved that the Trustees authorize up to \$10,000 to hire architect and/or structural assessment as recommended by the exploratory committee. Approved.** We may be able to obtain a grant to reimburse this cost.

12. Other Business. Patterson reported that a patron from another town wanted a library card. January of 2018 trustee voted to continue to allow Plainfield and Meriden citizens to use our library. Bylaws need to be amended to reflect this. Patterson moved that **the wording of the bylaws be changed to allow Plainfield and Meriden citizens to have a Cornish library card, per the 2018 trustee vote. Approved.**

13. Next Meeting Date. 13 September at 6:00 pm at the George H. Stowell Library.

14. Adjournment 7:18 pm

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