

Questions from Open Forums on Library Designs

Note: These meetings were focused on renovation plans. Questions that could be answered by the architects were answered at each meeting. Other questions were recorded and are being answered here, as promised.

Presentation by Banwell Architects on renovation of the general store as a new library, held September 29

Q 1. How much of the design will be decided by trustees and how much by public input (e.g., heating options, stack space)?

A. The George H. Stowell Free Library is a Town building; however, the Library Trustees manage that building and make all the decisions concerning its operation. These decisions include determining a library budget, the employees, the hours, the building maintenance needs, and the library policies. These decisions are directed by New Hampshire's RSA 202-A Public Libraries laws. Because of this, Trustees have the responsibility of making the decisions regarding heating options and stack space. These decisions and many others are and will be made with the help of the architects, library space planners, and public input. Suggestions from the public for building changes, programs, and collections are requested and welcome. Anyone with specific questions or concerns is encouraged to contact any Trustee and/or attend the Trustee meeting that are always open to the public. [Answered by the Trustees]

Q 2. Have you made estimates of daily visits, of how many people come into the building? Has the design been based on estimates for the daily use of this building? How is the building designed for future needs?

A. The library makes counts, not estimates. Currently, the librarian or library staff member on duty during open hours records a count of people using the library during their shift. As one would expect, these numbers vary by time of year, day of the week, and time. These numbers have been increasing, and the trustees expect that these numbers would increase even more with a new building and/or renovated building. [Answered by the Trustees].

Q 3. Have you considered a small café vendor?

A. Yes, the idea of having a vendor for a café was discussed early in the process, but the idea was set aside after questions were raised about the town's liability when a business operates in a town building. Currently, there are plans for a dedicated space for coffee/tea such as a Keurig machine but no plans for a café. [Answered by the Trustees]

Q 4. Is it possible to have childcare in the library?

A. Although it might be possible to have childcare in the new library, it would require additional funding for dedicated supervision, meeting special licensing requirements,

and, possibly, special design elements. We anticipate holding toddler-friendly story hours and after-school programming for children of all ages. [Answered by the Trustees]

Presentation by MA+KE Architects on renovation of the current Stowell Library, held October 4

Q 5. What happens to the Stowell building if it is not selected for renovation?

A. No decision has been made on the future of the Stowell building although the community has generated several ideas about its future should the library move to a new building. It could remain as a library annex, but this option would require the Town to support two library buildings. If the building does not continue as a library annex, it would be decommissioned as a library through a court ruling called a *Cy Pres*. Other suggestions (all requiring the *Cy Pres*) include using it as a town building (no purpose currently specified), giving the building to the Cornish Historical Society, and selling the building to be used as a business or residence.

Q 6, part 1. Is there a list of all buildings that the town owns? [Answer by the Cornish Town Office]

Street	Street_1	LandUse	Owner1	Description
TOWN HOUSE RD		L-EX-S	CORNISH SCHOOL DISTRICT	Cornish School - land under fair bldgs.
TOWN HOUSE RD	274	L-EX-S	CORNISH SCHOOL DISTRICT	Cornish School - land under Whelen Pav.
TOWN HOUSE RD	274	L-EX-S	CORNISH SCHOOL DISTRICT	Cornish School - main building
CENTER RD		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC Cemetery
SCHOOL ST		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC Cemetery
PLATT RD		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC Cemetery - Chase
RTE 120		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC Cemetery - Childs
RTE 120		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC Cemetery - Childs (land f/ expansion)
ROOT HILL RD		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC Cemetery - Comings
EDMINSTER RD		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC Cemetery - Edminister
HUGGIN CEMETERY RD		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC Cemetery - Huggins
RTE 12A		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC Cemetery - Trinity
WHITTEN RD		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC Cemetery - Whitten
TOWN HOUSE RD	482	L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC land - adjacent to Town Offices
TOWN HOUSE RD		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC land - .4 acres
TOWN HOUSE RD		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC land - .66 acres (Hodgdon Lot)
CENTER RD		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC land - 3 acres
RTE 12A	732	L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC land - Bridge parking area
LEAVITT HILL RD		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC land - Butman Lot, 2 acres
PARSONAGE RD		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC land - CREA property
TOWN HOUSE RD		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC land - fire pond
LEAVITT HILL RD		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC land - fire pond
CLAREMONT TOWN LINE		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC land - Hart Lot 63 acres
BACKLAND		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC land - Reed Lot 7 acres
TANDY BROOK RD		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC land - Town Forest
JACKSON RD		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC land - Town Forest
TOWN HOUSE RD	283	L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC land&building - Fire & Police Station
RTE 120	187	L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC land&building - Fire Station
TOWN HOUSE RD		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC land&building - Hearse House
PARSONAGE RD	255	L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC land&building - Highway Garage
SCHOOL ST	24	L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC land&building - Library
RTE 120		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC land&building - Meeting House
SCHOOL ST		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC land&building - Old Selectmen's Office
RTE 120	30	L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC land&building - Recycling Center
TOWN HOUSE RD	294	L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC land&building - Town Hall
TOWN HOUSE RD	488	L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC land&building - Town Offices
RTE 12A	833	L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC land&building - Trinity Church
TOWN HOUSE RD		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC Tax Deed
TOWN HOUSE RD		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC Tax Deed
TOWN HOUSE RD		L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC Tax Deed
MILL VILLAGE RD	51	L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC Tax Deed
JONESVILLE RD	18	L-EX-M	CORNISH, TOWN OF	TOC Tax Deed

Q 6, part 2. What is the cost of maintaining the Cornish historic buildings?

A. There is a Historic Building Committee that was established in 2016 and was charged by the Selectboard to inspect historic town buildings and create a capital maintenance and improvement plan to be funded primarily by the Municipal Building Capital Maintenance and Improvement Reserve Fund. The historic buildings the committee has identified are the Town Office, the Town Hall, The Meetinghouse, the Trinity Church, the Comings Cemetery Vault, the Little Town Hall, the CREA barn, the Child Cemetery Storage Shed, the Hearse House, and the Historical Center. There was \$42,0004.80 in that fund as of December 31, 2021. The George H. Stowell Free Library is a Town building but is managed by the library trustees and supported by its own capital reserve fund. [Answered by the Trustees]

Q 7. How many books will it [a renovated Stowell Library] be able to hold?

A. MA+KE Architects were asked to increase shelving space by 1/3 over the current capacity in the plans. Libraries calculate shelving space by linear foot, with an average of 11-12 books per linear foot. There are @ 1,268 lineal feet of shelving in the renovated Stowell building plans, allowing up to 13,948 volumes; however, some of these volumes are DVDs and Audiobooks. [Answered by the Trustees]

Q 8. Why is the CCI (Cornish Community Initiative, a recently formed non-profit organization) only willing to fundraise for the new library and not for a renovation of the Stowell building?

A.

- The CCI believes the community is best served with the library located at the store because this option:
 - better meets the needs of the community, and
 - provides more value per renovation dollar spent than the Stowell renovation alternative.
- Professional librarians, active and retired, and Stowell Library trustees have seen the renovation plans for both the store and Stowell buildings and have strongly agreed the store building renovation better fits the needs of a modern library and would be a more valuable resource for the Cornish community.
- In support of this rare opportunity to relocate the library, some residents have contacted CCI members and collectively pledged ~\$500,000 to renovate the store building. These donors have indicated that their donations would only be used toward the library option at the store.

[Answer requested from the CCI]