

George H. Stowell Free Library Trustee Meeting
Tuesday, January 10, 2023
George H. Stowell Free Library
Minutes (draft)

Present

Trustees: Kathi Patterson, Laura Cousineau, and Richard Scheuer

Librarian: Stephanie MacAndrew

Citizens: Judith Kauffman, Colleen O'Neill, Alicia Simino, Deanna Fitch, Marie DeRusha

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Minutes of trustee meetings for December 1 (w/LEC) and December 6, 2022, were approved. (The minutes are all posted on the library trustees' portion of the town web page.)
3. Librarian's Report. Programs upcoming: crafts January 17 for adults and January 24 for children; Lego for children; historical presentations for next month; joint book clubs with Plainfield in the works. Statistics for 2022 are being collected; most use statistic have doubled. Kathi has asked the Select Board to plow so that people can park, but the banks have only partially been pushed back. She sent them pictures in an email, but they have not responded.
4. Treasurer's Report. Kathi distributed 2 printed reports - one on how the Building Fund \$ has been spent and one on how the Exploratory Committee expense were paid (attached). On 12/31/22, there was \$40.95 in the checking account, \$2,859.60 in the Non-Lapsing savings account, \$14,722.60 in the Building Fund savings account, and \$5,706.06 in the Donation Fund savings account. The \$4,800 of the SHARP Grant has been spent. Kathi pointed to the notebook that holds all trustee meeting minutes and the financial information for the library. She also clarified that funds for the Tom Ladd Building Assessment report and the plans for a possible Stowell renovation were funded by an article in the 2022 town warrant and not by the Library Building Fund or the Library's yearly appropriation.
5. Old Business
 - a. Progress on get-out-the vote campaign. Kathi reported that Caroline and Susan have organized a series of house meetings where hosts invite people who live nearby. The group is writing a warrant and a petition to have the warrant for the town meeting. A copy of the warrant and petition was circulated. A circular will be mailed to everyone in town with information about the new library proposal.
 - b. Review the 2023 budget. Stephanie asked that her increase be reduce and the difference given to the staff. Laura asked that we go into executive session after the

rest of the agenda to discuss this personnel issue. The final library budget is due by January 20. Budget was moved, seconded, and approved.

6. New Business

- a. A \$100.00 donation in memory of Laird Klingler and \$200 from Karen Oszajka were accepted.
- b. 2022 Town Report pages are due Friday, January 20. Stephanie is writing a report. Kathi will draft a trustee report and circulate by email for edits.

7. Other Business

- a. Citizen Question: Do we have a number for how much has been spent by the library for the planning the new library? A. The trustees have spent \$25,319.58. This does not include expenditures by the town.
- b. Citizen Question: Who are the trustees? A. Trustees introduced themselves and their positions.
- c. Discussion suggestion: Should the number of trustees be increased from 3 to 5? The discussion was postponed until after the 2023 town meeting and before the 2024 town meeting.

8. Correspondence.

- a. Request from Larry Dingee (attached). Note that all library trustee meeting minutes from 1953 forward are kept in a binder in the library. Kathi has spent hours preparing a full answer and will provide the requested information to Mr. Dingee.
- b. Email from Tom Ladd (attached) received on December 8, answering if this building still needs to be ADA compliant if no renovations are done.
- c. Kathi contacted the Kingston Library for information about their Cy Pres process. The town built a new library and disposed of their donated library through the Cy Pres. The Kingston Historical Museum member who was a trustee of the library at the time responded (email attached). The former library operated as an annex for a few years. Later, a new director felt the annex wasn't needed. A Cy Pres was applied for and granted. The NH Historical Trust Unit has stated that the use must come under the original intent. There are several options for the Stowell building.
- d. An email (attached) from Caroline Storrs. As property owner to the tract behind the library, she agreed to do another easement so that the new library could have solar energy panels and stated that this offer is only if the building is used as a library.

9. Citizen Comments

- a. Colleen O'Neill. Laird's donation of appreciated stock is intact, valued at \$375,000, and is to be used only for renovation of the general store as a library. She spoke to the petition that was being circulated and asked that a copy be kept at the library to be signed. Two open houses will be held, and the town is

invited to tour both the current library and the current general store. The Friends of the Library will provide refreshments. The Select Board has been invited. Decided: Kathi will attend the open house at the Stowell Building and Laura will attend the open house at the general store; the dates are Jan 14 and Jan. 28 from 10:00 am to Noon.

- b. Judith Kaufman stated that the library is the only town building that does not have a parking lot, despite its being the most used by the most people.

10. Next Meeting Date: 16 February 2023 at 6:00 pm at the Stowell Library

11. Moved to executive session at 7:34 pm. Returned at 7:47 pm.

11. Adjournment at 7:50 pm.