

Cornish Library Exploratory Committee
Minutes
September 20, 2022

The Cornish Library Exploratory Committee and Cornish Library Trustees met on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 6:30 PM in the Cornish Town Offices. Members present were Laura Cousineau, Chair, Susan Chandler, Larry Dingee, Dillon Gallagher, Heidi Jaarsma, Kathryn Patterson, and Caroline Storrs.

Jill Edson, Sandra Guest, Judith Kaufman, and Colleen O'Neill also attended the meeting.

Approval of 9/6/2022 Minutes

Kathi Patterson asked that the date shown on the 9/6/2022 minutes be corrected. The spelling of Colleen O'Neill and Trumbull Nelson were also corrected. The minutes as corrected were accepted by majority consent.

Forum

Heidi Jaarsma circulated the draft library forum flyer and thanked Larissa Sharf for lending her expertise to the committee. Caroline Storrs reviewed the flyer information and asked that operating costs not be included in the forum description. The flyer will go out on Thursday 9/22/22.

Judith Kaufman asked for clarifications on the flyer and wondered if there would be a question and answer section. Laura Cousineau confirmed that there would be a question and answer section.

Caroline Storrs reported that she had contacted Tamsin Orion and Billy Sharf regarding filming the presentations. Ms. Orion will film the 9/29 forum, and the Sharfs will film the 10/4 forum. Ms. Storrs suggested a stipend of \$50 each.

Mr. Gallagher said that some might be uncomfortable being videotaped at the meeting and felt that the flyer should include that the forums would be videotaped and posted online. Ms. Storrs said that this was an important way for those who cannot attend the meeting to get information. Laura Sharf said that the videographer could only focus on the speaking table and not the audience. Judith Kaufman said that she had never heard of a flyer including a notice about videotaping.

Larry Dingee asked what was being accomplished by videotaping since the plans are available online. Jill Edson said that the forum will allow architects to answer questions and that online information is necessary. Laura Cousineau asked if there were any strong objections to videotaping. None of the committee members objected. Judith Kaufman offered support from the Friends of the Library to cover filming costs. Heidi Jaarsma asked if the Friends had applied for a 501(c)3 designation yet. Judith Kaufman said that the friends were a recognized non-profit in the state of New Hampshire. Ms. Jaarsma recommended that the Friends pursue a Federal 501(c)3 designation. Ms. Kaufman stated that she had never seen Ms. Jaarsma at a Friends of the Library meeting. Ms. Jaarsma stated that she wanted to see the group succeed and that the advice was offered in the spirit of support.

Laura Cousineau asked Caroline Storrs to review the forum. For the 9/29/22 forum, Caroline Storrs will moderate, and Colleen O'Neill will give a brief presentation, then Banwell will speak for about an hour. For the MaKe forum, Caroline Storrs will moderate, and Larry Dingee will give a brief presentation followed by a MaKe's presentation and question and answer period. Caroline Storrs will pick up a key the day before the first forum.

Preliminary Soft Costs

Laura Cousineau presented preliminary soft costs from Dano Anderson of School Furnishings. The Stowell Renovation furniture costs would be \$123,599. The General Store furniture costs will be \$206,718. The presented costs for both proposals are for all new furniture.

Larry Dingee asked what figures the designer used for more shelving. Laura Cousineau stated that the numbers were preliminary and that the Stowell Plan does not retain any of the existing shelving. Larry Dingee questioned whether the amount of shelving shown by School Furnishings in the Stowell plan was more than the previously stated goal of a third more shelving than is currently in the library. Laura Cousineau said that she did not think the desired shelving amount was reflected in the plan. Susan Chandler said that the number of tables and chairs seemed excessive considering the space. Judith Kaufman said that there were 20 adults and 20 children in the current library and she did not feel that the current design would be adequate. Caroline Storrs said that she felt that an increase of a third for shelving was not adequate. Heidi Jaarsma questioned why the existing stack shelving in the Stowell was proposed to be replaced.

Laura Cousineau presented the Banwell proposed furnishings and cost estimate. Caroline Storrs said that she felt the plan was too crowded with furnishings. Larry Dingee asked about the mezzanine furnishings. Laura Cousineau stated that the mezzanine would be a teen hangout space and that the table and chair furnishings proposed did not seem appropriate. Caroline Storrs said that she hoped to repurpose and reuse furniture. Kathi Patterson said that it could be difficult to find used shelving.

The trustees will review both proposals with the School Furnishings representative.

Final Report

Caroline Storrs stated that Tom Ladd's report should be included in the final report. Susan Chandler suggested that the interim report could be a starting point for the report. Ms. Storrs said that most of the questions in the report had been answered. Caroline Storrs and Susan Chandler will review the interim report and the implementation subcommittee report regarding the Cy Pres petitions. The Committee discussed various sections of the report. Larry Dingee advised that the committee not rush. Laura Cousineau said that she would like the report to be done by the end of October or the beginning of November. The Committee also discussed presenting the report to the Selectboard during a regular meeting.

Heidi Jaarsma read aloud her suggested outline for the final report which had been presented on March 29, 2022:

- I. Background.
- II. Current community facilities.
- III. Proposed facilities: benefits & liabilities.
- IV. Comparative analysis.
- V. Conclusion and resolution.

Costs

Heidi Jaarsma reviewed the spending out of the 2022 library committee warrant article to date. Sufficient funds remain to cover the cost of filming the two library forums.

Progress on Maintenance Schedules for Proposals

Kathi Patterson distributed a proposed table of maintenance costs for both buildings. The committee reviewed a list of maintenance items submitted by Banwell architects for the General Store renovation. It was noted that the document from Banwell architects included a statement that the roof would not be replaced as part of the renovation. Laura Cousineau will follow up with Banwell. Dillon Gallagher stated that he had expected costs to be attached to the expected maintenance items. Caroline Storrs stated that she felt the architects had answered the question sufficiently without costs. Laura Cousineau said that the Selectboard had asked for numbers. Dillon Gallagher said that the cost for replacement in today's numbers would be sufficient. The Board discussed how the Board could include figures in their report.

Community Center

Laura Cousineau stated that she had a summary and many pages of preliminary documents on community centers. Since the meeting was out of time, Ms. Cousineau will email the summary and supporting documents to the committee.

Sandra Guest said that she wanted to know how long Cornish has been the least funded library in the state.

The next meeting of the committee was scheduled for October 18, 2022, at 6:30PM.

The committee adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi M. Jaarsma

