

**George H. Stowell Free Library
Trustee Meeting Minutes
16 February 2023**

Present

Trustees: Kathi Patterson, Richard Scheuer, Laura Cousineau

Library staff: Stephanie MacAndrew, librarian

Citizens: Marie DeRusha, Judith Kaufmann

1. Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm
2. Minutes of January 10 meeting approved.
3. Librarian's Report. Programs have been held and books are circulating. About 35 people attending the Valentine's Day cookie decoration event, held at the store. Stephanie would like a way to transport books to children's events that are held outside of the library building; a laptop received through a grant allows for off-site check-out. Judith offered to have the Friends help with transportation.
4. Treasurer report. \$937.39 in checking. Heat and electricity paid. Electric rate went up; the library receives reduced rate for fuel through the town, but not for electricity.
5. Old Business
 - a. New Library Coalition doing signs, flyers for getting out the vote.
 - b. DES Contamination Timeline. Kathi compiled report in a timetable format. (attached to official copy of the minutes). She did this as a response to one of the "Minority Report." Kathi's report completes the information that was left out of the minority report. **Kathi will send it to the Select Board.**
6. New Business
 - a. Donations. \$100 accepted.
 - b. Accident Policy and Procedure. After a patron's fall was reported, a Primex representative interviewed Stephanie about the incident, and a risk management person took pictures of the stairs. **Trustees will review specifics of properly reporting incidents and ask the Town Office for forms; a policy will be presented at the next meeting and added to the library handbook.**
 - c. Stephanie asked about a media policy concerning how staff should respond to inquiries and questions by reporters. **Trustees will benchmark media policies and check with the NH Library Trustee Association. A policy will be proposed at the next meeting.**
 - d. Budget hearing report.
 - i. No issues were raised with the library budget.
 - ii. Questions were raised about the library's capital reserve fund request. The history of the first request for a capital reserve fund is that it was

made by the Select Board for \$2,000. There is no designated use and spending it must be approved at the town meeting, and the amount can be changed from the floor. The Select Board made requests for a few years and the trustees have made the subsequent requests.

- iii. The warrant article for acceptance of the new library prompted a discussion, with attacks on the integrity of the trustees and a personal attack on Colleen O'Neill that was not stopped or commented on by the Select Board members.

7. Citizen Comments and Discussion.

- a. DeRusah asked about the NLC. Laura explained that it was a coalition of the CCI and the Friends with a representative from the trustees (Laura). **Laura will write an article for ConnectCornish explaining about the NLC, who wrote the petition, and who is paying for the mailings.** Richard explained that a petition does not require a statement of who wrote the petition. Kathi explained the evolution of O'Neill's non-binding letter of intent, which in turn became the language of warrant. Richard explained the necessity for some flexibility in the warrant. Kathi reviewed the history of trying to improve this building. The great difficulties in renovating the current building are that it would be very expensive, would destroy the historic character, and would reduce the already-too-scarce space in the library.
- b. Update on purchases by donation. The Friends agreed to buy a special pass to the Billings Farm Museum that the library can lend to patrons. The newspaper archive database is being pursued. Flyers can be funded by submitting invoices to Kathi as treasurer.

8. Correspondence. From Mike Fuerst concerning Cy Pres from the director of the NH Charitable Trust unit, saying that two potential uses of the Stowell building would be acceptable should the new library be built.

9. Discussion of joint table with CCI and with Friends at Town Meeting. Friends bake sale table would be separate. **Richard moved and Laura seconded to participate in the joint table. Motion passed.**

10. **Next meeting: Thursday, March 9 at 6:00 pm**

11. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.