

George H. Stowell Free Library Trustee Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2023, 6:00 p.m. at the George H. Stowell Free Library

PRESENT: Trustees Kathi Patterson, Laura Cousineau, Marie De Rusha. Librarian Stephanie McAndrew. Citizens Deanna Meadows Fitch, Caroline Storrs, Laurie Ackerman, Richard Scheuer and Alicia Simino.

1. Laura called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Approval of the August 24 minutes was postponed until the next meeting as Laura hadn't had the opportunity to read them.

3. Librarian's Report:

The Library has seen an increase in use with the school year beginning. Programs that are slated for the future are the Saint Gauden's solstice event, the CCI art event and a talk on the history of the George H. Stowell Free Library to be presented by David Kruidenier.

4. Treasurer's Report:

- a. Checkbook balance on 9/18/23 was \$10,935.50
- b. Tasker Bridge balance on 9/18/23 was \$275.03
- c. Donation Account balance on 8/31/23 was \$1,311.33
- d. Palmer Fund Account on 8/31/23 was \$1,006.79
- e. Non-lapsing Unanticipated Funds on 8/31/23 was \$2,892.98
- f. Building Funds Account on 8/31/23 was \$14,725.57

5. Old Business:

a. Laura and Stephanie had met twice to discuss policies and strategic planning. Marie and Kathi did not attend these meetings. Policies were added to the Library Bylaws, Policies and Objectives. The new food and beverage policy which is under the Library Behavior section was amended to "users" in the language rather than "patrons", moved by Laura seconded by Kathi voted in the affirmative unanimously. The parking policy will not be instituted as it is a public road. Moved by Laura, seconded by Kathi, Marie voted in the negative. Vote passed for not instituting a parking policy. The next policy adopted was under Security and Safety. Wording was changed from "caregiver" to "someone" reading "children under the age of eight must be accompanied and supervised by someone over the age of twelve." Added to this was the statement that if parents cannot be reached regarding their child, the staff member may contact the Cornish Police if necessary. Moved by Laura, seconded by Kathi, voted in the affirmative unanimously. Stephanie presented a bulletin board policy. Marie moved to revisit this policy at

the next meeting. Laura seconded and the vote passed unanimously. Please visit the town website at cornishnh.net to review the Library Bylaws, Policies and Objectives or stop by the Library and request to see them there.

b. Planning for transition to the new building and to prepare for use of a larger space was discussed in some detail. Covered was limiting the weeding of books, adding to series already in possession, revisiting the lending time and relocation of Library contents as in furnishings and art work as to what would stay and what would be relocated. Laura would like to see a committee formed to address relocation. Kathi will head the committee. Laura would like another committee formed to address the community room policies and programs. Marie volunteered to be on this committee and will work with Stephanie. Yet another committee will be formed as to what should happen to the George H. Stowell Free Library building. As a committee, only recommendations can be made. The intention of this committee is to help bring the community back together. Michael Fuerst and Kathi Patterson will co-chair and there is hope to include a member of the BOS and a representative of the Historical Society. All of the Trustees will be on this committee so the meetings will have to be warned. Alicia Simino was asked by Laura to join the committee but declined. Alicia had a written statement which will be included under Citizen's Comments. Budget implications and review of the current budget to consider changes that may be needed for the new building will be looked into.

c. There was nothing new to report on the CCI update.

6. New Business:

- a. There were no new donations.
- b. The policies were discussed earlier in the meeting.
- c. Kathi moved the Trustees give permission for her to meet with Heidi to discuss the options for using the NH Public Deposit Investment Pool. Marie seconded and the vote passed in the affirmative.

7. Other Business:

There was no other business.

8. Correspondence:

There was no new correspondence.

9. Citizen's Comments:

Please see attached for Alicia Simino's written statement or visit the Library and request to see a copy.

I was approached at the Cornish Fair this summer and asked to join the Strategic Planning Committee for the new Library at the Cornish General Store.

I hold true to the statement I read at Town Meeting..." The building was intended to bring the book and the reader together in a permanent home that symbolized the importance of the written word. To most of us, buildings like the Stowell are the places where we first enter the wider world of the mind and find unlimited range for our youthful imaginations. These buildings become beloved symbols of our awakening to the possibilities of life." The same cannot be said of the library at the old Cornish General Store.

Therefore, I will not have my name attached to any organization that promotes abandoning GH Stowell Free Library, the finest building in Cornish.

Please submit to the Library Trustee Minutes 9/19/23

Thank you,

Alicia Simino

10. Next Meeting Date:

Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 6 p.m. at the George H. Stowell Free Library.

11. Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m. by Laura

Respectfully submitted,

Marie De Rusha