

George H. Stowell Free Library Trustee Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2023, 6:00 p.m. at the George H. Stowell Free Library

PRESENT: Trustees Kathi Patterson and Marie De Rusha **Librarian** Stephanie McAndrew **Citizens** Richard Scheuer, Heidi Jaarsma and Merilynn Bourne

1. Kathi called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. August and September minutes were approved.
3. Librarian's Report:

There were about 55 people in attendance at the History of Cornish Libraries presentation. Stephanie is working with the Friends of the Library and the Upper Valley Music Center to organize a barn dance in the future. The painting class went well and there are rock painting kits available to check out at the Library.

4. Treasurer's Report:

- a. Checkbook balance as of 11/09/23 was \$9,391.55
- b. Tasker Grant balance as of 11/09/23 was \$275.03
- c. Donation account balance as of 11/09/23 was \$1,311.40
- d. Palmer Fund account as of 11/09/23 was \$1,006.84
- e. Non-Lapsing Unanticipated Funds balance as of 11/09/23 was \$2,892.98. This includes Tasker Grant monies.
- f. Building Funds account balance as of 11/09/23 was \$14,726.31

Cromwell Fund was not mentioned.

5. Old Business:

- a. Kathi gave a review for planning toward the transition. Her daughter, Kim Patterson, who works at In the Garden on Route 12A, gave her collapsible crates that can be used for packing and moving books. The crates came from In the Garden as they were heading for the recycle bin.

- b. The CCI Committee update was emailed by Laura Cousineau as she was not in attendance and serves on the building committee along with Stephanie McAndrew. The email was read aloud by Kathi. The interior/exterior subcommittee met on November 7th. Attending that meeting were architects from Banwell, a mechanical engineer, a civil engineer, a plumber, an electrical engineer and a representative from Trumbull-Nelson. They all had reports based on their physical examinations of the building and grounds with determination of needs, compliance with all ordinances and conversations with the DOT. What the findings were and what was discussed was not included in the email. The chair of the building

committee, who was not named, said that the design phase will be completed this month. There are slight refinements from the plan that Banwell originally submitted at the start of 2023, these refinements are not expounded upon. In January Trumbull-Nelson will provide the estimated cost of the more detailed version of the plan and construction documents will be developed during the first quarter of 2024. The chair stated after the documents are completed there will be a pause until most of the funds are raised. Once the funds are raised the CCI will put the project out to bid. After review by the architects, all plans will be submitted to Trumbull-Nelson which will then begin the revision of cost estimates, which are expected in January 2024.

6. New Business:

- a. There were no new donations.
- b. Kathi filled out all the needed paperwork to sign up for the N.H. Public Investment Pool and will meet with Heidi to finish the process.
- c. John Dryfhout made a donation to the Friends of the Library to put toward "growth". No one seems too sure what was meant by that. The donation could be put toward professional development. Stephanie asked John directly what he would like it to be used for and John explained it was intended to be put toward whatever the Friends wanted to use it for. This was a donation to the Friends of the Library, not the George H. Stowell Free Library.

7. There was no other business to address.

8. Correspondence:

Nancy Newbold sent an email to Laura Cousineau regarding Laura's invitation to join one of her various committees. Nancy declined the invitation as she is opposed to moving the Library to the Cornish General Store. She did not request the letter be submitted to the minutes. Her full letter can be found in the binder at the George H. Stowell Free Library.

9. Citizen Comments:

Heidi met with Andrew Cushing from the N.H. Preservation Alliance regarding buildings slated for the historic register. Five buildings were visited that day including the George H. Stowell Free Library. Andrew had visited and had a tour of the Stowell Library some time earlier in the year. Both Kathi and Stephanie claim to not remember this visit. Kathi thinks Colleen O'Neill contacted him directly and invited him to tour the Library with her. Kathi stated she may not have registered who he was at the time and doesn't remember when it was he was there. Andrew stated he feels all five buildings are eligible for funds to be put toward building restorations and repairs. He is willing to do the applications for all five buildings for free.

10. The next meeting date will be determined at a later time.

11. Kathi adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.